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TO OUR READERS:

In compliance with the Israeli military authorities, and under the guise of the much criticized "Emergency Regulations" of 1945, Al-Fajr is required to submit all material prepared for publication in this weekly, and also in the Arabic Daily and Bi-Weekly Hebrew Edition, to the Israeli censorship authorities, who use this blanket authority excessively. The material appearing on pages labeled with letters has all been censored and expunged by the Israeli authorities. We found it necessary and relevant to publish it on these pages in the foreign edition.

FROM ONE SOLDIER'S TESTIMONY

BZ STUDENTS GET 18 MONTHS

Two Bir Zeit University students were sentenced, August 2, to 18 months imprisonment for alleged participation in the battle with Israeli troops in Bir Zeit, July 27, when soldiers tried to stop a demonstration to protest the killings at Hebron the day before.

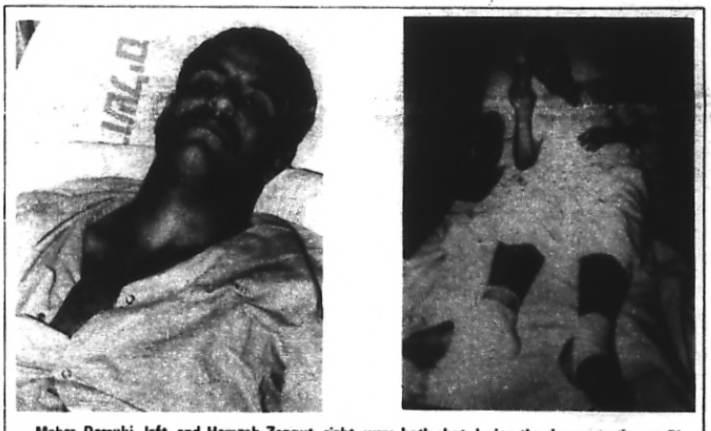
The students, Naim Assadi, a freshman, and Nadim Hamoudeh, a sophomore, both from the arts college, and 24 other students presently at al-Fara'a detention centre, were taken from a bus taking them from Bir Zeit to Ramallah on the evening of the demonstration.

Albert Aghazarian, head of the BZU public relations department, told *Al Fajr* that after the demonstration on campus, Israeli soldiers surrounded the university and the students were forced to remain in the halls for several hours. That evening, after negotiations with the military authorities, all students were allowed to leave the university in two buses, he said.

When the two buses approached the Bir Zeit village post office, where an Israeli patrol was stationed, they were stopped and the ID cards of 50 students were taken. The two buses were allowed to continue to Ramallah, but when they approached the prison they were stopped again and the 26 students arrested.

Aghazarian, who attended the court session, commented that the court accepted the lone testimony of one soldier to sentence the students who had not been arrested during the demonstration itself.

On the same day, said Albert Aghazarian, one resident of Ramallah was sentenced to 19 months on charges of membership in an illegal organisation and possession of a Molotov.



Maher Dassuki, left, and Hamzeh Zaqqut, right, were both shot during the demonstration at Bir Zeit University last week; Dassuki suffered wounds in the groin and five bullets hit Zaqqut in the feet. The ambulance carrying Dassuki to Makassed Hospital was redirected to the military headquarters at Beit El, and later on he was taken against his will to Hadassah Hospital. Zaqqut was also prevented from being taken to Makassed and was treated instead at Ramallah Hospital./JN

Family Barred from Burial

In an unprecedented move, Israeli soldiers buried Samih Fathi Abu Bakr, 26, a victim in last week's assault on Hebron Islamic University, in a cemetery in the village of Rumaneh, July 28, 25 kilometres from his home village of Ya'abad, near Jenin. No member of his family was allowed to take part in the burial. The burial took place at 2:30 am.

Israeli authorities claimed that the measure was taken because 'demonstrations might be generated during the funeral.' Soldiers patrolling the streets in preparation for the internment detained seven youths, all relatives and friends of the deceased. The military said they will be charged with creating disturbances. A member of the Abu Bakr family who asked not to be named said the youths were preparing for the burial ceremony when the arrests occurred.

Israeli soldiers dug the grave and carried out the burial. It is unknown whether a religious ceremony — the family is Muslim — took place or not.

Throughout the previous day, members of the family tried to get the authorities to rescind their decision. They even pledged to maintain order and to allow only the 20 closest relatives to attend. Israeli officers ignored these demands and gave the family two alternatives; either to have the body buried in Tulkarm or Rumaneh.

It is believed that the authorities chose Rumaneh because it is a small village inside the 'green line,' where demonstrations are unlikely to occur. Tulkarm, on the other hand, was an unrealistic alternative because it is too far.

On the day he was killed, Samih, a wholesale merchant, was visiting Hebron on business and later stopped at the university to visit friends from his home town who study there. His relatives say he was "a responsible and charming man."

One resident of Ya'abad said the Israeli measure had "deeply affected" them. "It is the first time for them that families of a dead person have been barred from burying their relatives," he said. Internments, especially in villages, are community affairs, usually attended by most of the population.

Hebron Buses Ordered Into Schoolyard

A week after the killing of three Palestinians at Hebron University and the wounding of dozens more, tension is still high in Hebron.

The military governorate in Hebron ordered, August 2, the United Hebron National Bus Company and 12 other village companies to transfer their 73 buses to a new terminal Israel is trying to set up in the schoolyard of the Ibrahimiyeh School near the Ibrahimi Mosque on the southern outskirts of the city.

The deputy military governor summoned Fayez Qawasmi, owner of the bus company, July 30, and ordered him verbally to transfer his 38 buses to the new station. A week earlier the Israeli High Court in Jerusalem issued an order *nisi* preventing Israeli authorities from demolishing the present Hebron garage until the minister of defence shows cause why. The bus terminal serves the entire Hebron district. The court turned down the demand of the three owners of the garage to reopen it.

Israeli soldiers took over the bus station, July 8, following the death of a settler more than half a kilometre away.

The Israeli court had issued a decision to reopen the bus station, June 26, after it was closed for one week when the Custodian of Absentee Property claimed ownership. The bus station was closed again July 8.

Fayez Qawasmi's lawyer is expecting another court session in the near future. Meanwhile, buses continue to use the streets as a terminal. Qawasmi, the Hebron Bus Company owner, told *Al Fajr* that the alternative bus station is not suitable for the buses: "The schoolyard is full of garbage and has no offices to run the work." Qawasmi estimated the loss of the companies during the past 45 days at JD1 million. He expects that Israeli authorities will grab the bus station.

'AL FAJR' OFFICES FIREBOMBED

An incendiary bomb was thrown into *Al Fajr* Arabic daily newspaper offices in Jerusalem, August 1, at about 3:00 am. The bomb burned curtains and caused minor damage in the news room before being extinguished by the fire service.

"Police say the petrol-filled bottle was thrown by a passenger in a car which drove past the newspaper's office on Nablus Road at about 3:30 am. An employee of the nearby Cairo Hotel said there were three men in a white Subaru." (Translation: The Jerusalem Post, August 2).

This is the second direct attack on *Al Fajr*'s Nablus Road offices. In August 1980 a bomb was placed at the entrance of the headquarters. It demolished the gate and caused some damage to the entrance.

Al Fajr's main editor, Hanna Siniora, was the victim of a car-burning attack last year and harassments, including town arrest orders, have been imposed on editors, journalists and correspondents of the newspaper.

The founder of *Al Fajr*, Yusef Nasr, was kidnapped in 1974 and was never seen again.

A senior *Al Fajr* editor commented on the latest incident: "Our newspaper will continue to come out, whether thugs burn, bomb or destroy the offices."

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One Israeli Dead In Beqa'a Clashes

The current state of tension in the Beqa'a flared, August 2, when Israelis and Syrians traded artillery and small arms fire in the area of Amiq. An Israeli captain was killed in the clash. The Israeli occupation army began preparations for a partial pullback as attacks against it continued throughout the week.

Captain Nazem Fayez Fares, 26, a Druze officer from Hur Feish in the Galilee, suffered gunshot wounds in the Amiq exchange and later died in the hospital. Israeli and Syrian military spokesmen traded accusations about responsibility for the cease-fire violation. An Israeli military spokesman claimed that Syrian troops had directed light arms fire towards an Israeli position near Kufr Qok, while Syrians charge that Israeli troops opened heavy artillery and tank fire on Syrian positions. There were no reports of any casualties on the Syrian side.

The incident reflected a heating up of tension on both sides of the confrontation lines.

Last week, Syrian anti-aircraft batteries downed an Israeli drone as it circled over Syrian positions. Another plane barely escaped a SAM-6 missile which was fired at it.

In South Lebanon, Israeli troops remained on full alert as they prepared themselves for a partial pullback. Israeli reports said that military equipment was being loaded on trucks and taken to new fortifications being built on the southern bank of the Awali River. Radio Israel reported, August 4, that prefabricated housing was being trucked from the Beqa'a to Damour, which is 16 kilometres north of the pull-back line.

Military attacks were launched by clandestine military units of the Lebanese Resistance Front and Palestinian commandos. The local Palestinian press reported at least five military attacks last week. Israeli military spokesmen claimed there were no casualties. Reliable news sources, however, stated that in one of the attacks, July 29, two bazooka shells fell in the middle of an Israeli position in the Amiq area, in the Beqa'a valley. Israeli troops closed off the area to reporters.

Land Forger Convicted

Israeli magistrates in Ramallah sentenced, July 24, Mahmoud Shehadeh Hussein, 30, from Deir Ammar in the Ramallah district to three months in jail and ordered him to pay costs after finding him guilty of attempting to forge a land sale.

Aref Daoud Da'amas, 60, a Deir Ammar mukhtar told *Al Fajr* that Mahmoud Shehadeh asked him, July 14, to notarise a plan for constructing an extra room to his house. "After three days the man asked me again to sign on a different plan claiming that the first was not correct. I refused and demanded he give me the first one," he said. The house plans turned out to be maps for land sales.

Aref Da'amas filed a complaint to the legal advisor in Ramallah accusing Mahmoud Shehadeh of forging land sale documents. Shehadeh confessed in court when the judge brought the first building plan as evidence for the attempted forgery.

Commenting, Aref Da'amas said, "The Palestinian people denounce this deception and refuse to bargain for their land."

Commandos Ambush Two Vehicles

Two Israeli settlers from Shave Shomron settlement, northwest of Tulkarm, were wounded, August 2, when they were fired on by unidentified men near the town of Anabta. Israeli troops were reported to be looking for the group, which also shot up an Israeli military bus in the same area.

The attack, Israel Radio said, occurred shortly before noon. The attackers used British automatic weapons in their attack. The commandos, who, according to Israeli newspapers, made an ambush on the road between Nablus and Tulkarm, first fired at an Israeli settler's car, injuring a woman and a man inside it. The car sped away as they heard the gun shots. Minutes later, an Israel bus carrying a load of soldiers was attacked after it passed on the same road.

The attackers withdrew from the area before it was cordoned off. A curfew was imposed on Anabta, Beit Lid and Ramin.

Nicosia site for new PRC

Sabri Jiryis, from Fasouta village in Upper Galilee, the Chairman of the Palestine Research Centre in Beirut, is making preparations to open a second Palestine Research Centre in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus. Jiryis was kicked out of Lebanon by the Gemayel regime in June.

Jiryis told friends in the country that the new centre will be opened "in the near future."

After his deportation from Lebanon, ostensibly for 'security reasons,' he went first to France but was refused entry. He then flew to Tunisia.

Hanna Jiryis, Sabri's wife, was killed in the explosion that destroyed the seven-storey PRC earlier this year.

The Israeli army looted the contents of the centre when they took West Beirut in September. The PLO is still demanding the return of the contents in its list of preconditions for the release of eight Israeli prisoners of war in their hands.

GALILEE AND TRIANGLE SUPPORT HEBRON

Twenty-five Arab local and municipal councils in the Galilee and the Triangle struck for two hours, July 28, in protest at the murder of three Palestinian students and the injury of at least 33 others at Hebron University. Ibrahim Nimr Hussein, the head of the Regional Committee of the Arab Councils, said the strike was "unanimous."

On the same day, there were reports from towns and villages within the 1948 borders of Israel of large and angry demonstrations. In Acre, residents of Um al-Fahm, Kufr Kanna and Sakhnin convened protest meetings in which speakers denounced settler brutality and acts of aggression in the occupied territories.

Nazareth

Nazarenes took to the streets from the early morning. Demonstrations emerged from the town's main centres: the market area, the bus station, the main road and the industrial zone. Scores of men and women chanted national slogans such as "Rest, rest, O martyrs, we will continue the struggle." Large numbers of police, border guards and intelligence men accompanied the demonstrations.

During the morning, several prominent figures in the democratic women's movement were summoned to the police centres and interrogated about distributing leaflets denouncing the massacre in Hebron. The women were released on the same day. The Progressive Movement in Nazareth sent two protesting telegrammes to Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Defence Minister Moshe Arens demanding the settlers be disarmed and settlements dismantled.

On the other hand, the municipality of Nazareth issued a statement notifying the residents of Nazareth about the strike and the closure of the municipality offices, July 28. The statement said the bloodshed in the occupied territories will only end with the withdrawal of Israeli forces and the recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

After a full day of demonstrations in Nazareth, several hundred people held a meeting which was addressed by several members of the Israeli Communist Party and Tawfiq Zayyad, the mayor of Nazareth.

Zayyad said, "The massacre in Hebron is a concrete example of the practices and the Zionist dealings of the Israeli government with the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The government bears full responsibility for the massacre, which was carried out in the same style as that of Sabra and Shatila."

Kufr Yasif

In Kufr Yasif, the demonstrators shouted anti-occupation slogans and marched through the streets of the village. After the demonstration, a popular meeting was convened.

In Um al-Fahm, the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality distributed a leaflet entitled "The Hand of Deception Paralysed." Another 1500 residents of Sakhnin held a meeting in solidarity with the victims of the Hebron massacres. In Acre, a leaflet denouncing the culprits was distributed in the surrounding villages.

In Ara and Ar'ara, the local teachers committees sent a solidarity telegramme to the acting-mayor of Hebron. In Deir al-Assad, participants of the international community work camp sent telegrammes to the mayors of the West Bank and to the prime minister demanding the government reveal the identities of the criminals.

Kufr Kanna

Residents of Kufr Kanna wrote slogans on the walls of the village, such as "Martyrs' blood in Hebron will not go in vain" and "PLO lives on as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." A reporter told *Al Fajr* that the village was "calm but tense." That evening, scores of villagers attended a public meeting in which Afif Salem, a journalist from the West Bank, talked about the conditions in the occupied territories and the settlers' acts of aggression in Hebron before the massacre.

On the following day, the martyrs' prayers were performed in the village.

In Bi'na, Tireh, Rahat, and Melia, residents performed similar prayers for the martyrs of Hebron.

One day after the demonstration in Nazareth, July 29, large numbers of police and soldiers broke into six houses in Nazareth to conduct provocative searches. Six young men were arrested and magazines and other publications were confiscated. The six were charged with writing slogans on the walls. The magistrates court agreed to release Dakhil Hamad on IS100,000 bail to attend his wedding.

The Communist Party branch in Nazareth issued a statement denouncing the campaign of arrests and demanding the immediate release of the prisoners.

Beit Iksa Orchards Uprooted for Ramot

Israeli contractors' bulldozers uprooted more than 1000 olive and fruit trees from an orchard belonging to Yusef and Yasin Hussein Habbabeh, from Beit Iksa, northwest of Jerusalem, July 22. The measure came after the owners lost a three-year battle in court against the Israeli authorities' attempts to confiscate the 10-dunum plot, located within Jerusalem boundaries.

Yusef Habbabeh, the older of the two brothers, told *Al Fajr* that the bulldozers, driven by two civilians working for a contracting company, started uprooting fruit-bearing trees at around 1:00 pm. They said they had received a court decision allowing them to work.

Nearly one month ago the Jerusalem district court, in a session in which the two landowners were absent, handed down a decision affirming a confiscation decision which is said to have been in effect since 1970.

Habbabeh counters that he never heard of any confiscation order against his land. The first time he became aware of such an order was in 1980, when he went to court against nearby Ramot settlement for dumping dirt in his fields and destroying his trees. During that session, the representative of the Israeli Land Administration stated that the land was confiscated, along with nearly 4500 more dunums in that area, for "public purposes." A written form of the order was submitted to the mukhtar of Beit Iksa, the home village of most of the landowners, he claimed.

Habbabeh says that the mukhtar had not notified him of anything. He also said that he had checked the records of the mukhtar, who died shortly before the court case was made, but found nothing relating to the alleged confiscation order.

In one of the court sessions early this year, the court contested the date in which the trees were planted and claimed that they were planted after 1970. Yusef Habbabeh rejected the court's claim and invited them to inspect the trees. An agricultural engineer later affirmed that the trees were planted in the early 1950s. The court, as a result, offered to give him compensation but Habbabeh refused to take any money, insisting that he was not ready to sell the land through taking compensations.

Habbabeh's 10 dunums of land are the only plot in the area that has been cultivated. In the early 1950s, one could not distinguish it from the rest of the 4500 dunums adjacent to it. He said that then he paid more than JD1000 to reclaim the plot. The rest of the land remained uncultivated and many of its owners left for Jordan in the 1967 war.

Presently, Israeli settlers are preparing the infrastructure of a new settlement, or possibly an enlargement of the adjacent Ramot settlement.

Curfews Meet Demos, 3-Day Strike

Clashes, demonstrations and curfews in the aftermath of the attack on Hebron University, July 26, continued this week. Youths battled Israeli troops with stones and most shopkeepers were on strike until July 30. Israeli troops clamped curfews on a number of cities and refugee camps.

The longest curfew was maintained on parts of Nablus, the nearby Balata refugee camp, and Qalqiliya, the hometown of two of the Hebron University victims.

In Nablus, where a woman was killed by a settler, July 26, daily stone throwing incidents were reported, despite the curfew which was enforced on the Qasabeh neighbourhood. Even during the daily one hour curfew break, in which families went out to buy food, some stone throwing incidents were reported. The curfew was lifted overnight, July 30, but reimposed the next morning. It was, however, finally lifted that evening. The restriction remained in effect on the nearby Balata refugee camp.

Qalqiliya, the western-most city in the north of the West Bank, has a reputation for being quieter than other cities. Following the deaths of Sa'ad al-Din Sabri and Jamal Nazzal, however, there were daily protests this week. Despite the curfew which was clamped down on the city on July 29 three days after the attack, Israeli Radio reported several stone throwing incidents in which at least one Israeli car had its windscreen broken. Stone throwing also took place during breaks. The curfew was preceded by a three-day commercial strike.

There were four days of violent protests in Tulkarm, just north of Qalqiliya. The protest reached its peak on Thursday, July 28, when youths attacked the local branch of the Israeli Discount Bank. Israeli military patrols came under a hail of stones. Eyewitnesses said that the bank guard used his gun to repel the demonstrators.

Israeli troops later arrested several youths suspected of stone throwing. One Israeli car had its windscreen broken.

In Hebron, the restriction of movement remained in effect for four days and was finally lifted on Thursday, July 30.

The same bank had much of its furniture detroyed in February during the poisoning scare.

Occasional protest and stone throwing incidents were reported from a number of places. In Bethlehem, three univeristy students were arrested following a 200-strong silent march. Earlier, Israeli troops forced shops in the city to open.

In Jerusalem, which witnessed two days of complete commercial strike, there was a peaceful march in the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard following the Friday noon prayers. A few kilometres east of Jerusalem, five Israelis were injured when their car was stoned as it passed Azariyeh, on the Jerusalem-Jericho road. Four youths from the village were arrested.

In Anabta, near Tulkarm, residents marched after the Friday noon prayers, set tyres alight and stoned Israeli cars. The demonstration finally dispersed voluntarily. (Translation: Arabic Press).

Prayers vs. tear gas; soldiers stand ready at al-Aqsa Mosque./JN

Peaceful al-Aqsa Protest March

More than 500 Palestinian worshippers took part in a 15-minute march at Al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard, July 29, to protest the armed attack on Hebron University, three days earlier, which left three dead. The Israeli army stood fully armed and ready to confront the protesters, but did not intervene since the marchers dispersed on request from Muslim sheikhs.

The protest began shortly after noon, when many youthful worshippers who finished the midday prayer at Al-Aqsa lined up behind Sheikh Mohammad al-Jamal and began marching. About six journalists equipped with cameras and tape recorders rushed behind the crowd which was shouting the traditional *Allah Akbar* (God is great) chants. As they progressed, more protesters, especially women, who were praying inside the Dome of the Rock joined the marchers.

The gathering went halfway around the Dome of the Rock from the south to the eastern side and climbed the stairs to the main courtyard in front of the decorated octagon-shaped building. Only metres to the right, soldiers stood wearing tear-gas masks, and armed with loaded tear-gas guns, while others, helmeted and bearing clubs stood nearby.

From atop a stone pulpit, the sheikh addressed the crowd, condemning the attack as a barbarian act, committed under the shadow of the occupation government. The sheikh recalled Islamic teachings which urge Muslims to protect non-Muslims from any violence, and compared that to the incident in Hebron. Before concluding his speech he urged the protesters to disperse peacefully, "in order to prevent the Israelis from intervening." Many youths were hesitant to leave, but eventually left after the guards of the mosque requested them to do so.

Prior to the demonstration, Sheikh Mohammad Isaileh, who preached to the people amassed inside and outside the ancient mosque, urged for a greater unity to confront the Israeli schemes. He also challanged the authorities to intervene to disrupt the protest. "This is our mosque and we are free to do what we wish in it." he said. Prayers, which were interrupted with a thunderous "amen" from the crowds, concentrated on the ineffectivness of Arab leaders in assisting the Palestinian people. The noon prayer ended with a memorial prayer, in *absentia*.

Women's sit-in

Palestinian women held a sit-in at the International Committee of the Red Cross office in Jerusalem, July 30, in protest of the Hebron University massacre, July 26, in which three were killed and scores injured as a result of indiscriminate shooting and grenade throwing.

In a statement handed to the head of the Jerusalem office of the Red Cross the Palestinian women said they "denounce the inhuman acts and crimes committed by the occupation authorities against the unarmed Palestinian poeople, with attacks on homes, mosques and churches." The statement explained that the latest of these attacks was the "massacre in Hebron, in which three Palestinians were killed in cold blood and another Palestinian woman in Nablus was also murdered."

The women called on the "free world and those with live consciences" to "stand with us in our struggle for a just peace and our quest to live in peace in our homeland in a Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, our sole and legitimate representative."

BALATA CAMP DEMONSTRATION

After the curfew on Balata camp was lifted for two hours, July 30, scores of residents took to the streets shouting slogans against the massacre in Hebron and waving pictures of PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat. The demonstrators stoned three military vehicles before Israeli soldiers dispersed them, arresting dozens. One demonstrator stuck an Arafat portrait on a military vehicle; the Israelis only discovered it after half an hour.

Midnight Funerals for Latest Martyrs

Israeli occupation authorities gave the corpse of bride-to-be Ilham Abu Zarour, 18, to her relatives at midnight, July 29, after obtaining agreement that only 14 people would attend the funeral procession. The following day, residents of Nablus held a symbolic funeral procession to the cemetery. A day before, the old city of Nablus was placed under curfew after sporadic cat-and-mouse chases between Israeli soldiers and young stone throwers. Reports said that one Israeli soldier received head wounds.

Members of the Sabri and Nazal families in Qalqiliya refused, July 26, the same conditions. They insisted that all people attending the condolence *diwans* must be allowed to participate in the funeral. Israelis backed down and over 100 people attended the funeral at 2:00 am. They chanted religious slogans. More than 200 soldiers and 15 military vehicles accompanied the procession.

In the cemetery the two corpses were buried without being washed and clothed according to the Islamic principles. They were considered and treated as martyrs. The brother of Jamal Nazal told *Al Fajr* that the Israeli soldiers forced the funeral party to break up and people were made to leave individually. They were divided into two sections walking in opposite directions.

The next day, Israeli authorities prevented the Muslims of Qalqiliya from performing Friday prayers in a pre-emptive move to head off demonstrations. The whole town was placed under curfew. The military governor in Qalqiliya and his deputy accompanied by a 20 vehicle escort made an uninvited visit to the homes of the two Qalqiliya martyrs during the curfew.

Locals estimate that over 20,000 residents from all over the country visited the martyrs' relatives to offer condolences. Families report they received hundreds of telegrammes.

Hebron U Reopens, Tightens Security

Hebron University resumed academic activity, August 2, after the board of trustees published ads in the local papers calling for students to come to the university for their examination schedules. The university had been closed since July 26, when three were killed and 38 injured in a terrorist grenade and gun assault on campus.

Dr Khuloqi Khanfar, president of the university, told *Al Fajr*, "We decided to resume study at the university as quickly as possible in order to defeat the aims of the murderers, whose main aim was to halt the continuation of academic life at the university."

Dr Nabil Ja'abari, university spokesman, said the atmosphere on the campus was generally good and that all students and faculty members were happy with the resumption of studies "because this undermines one of the aims of the attack."

Ja'abari added that increased security measures will be taken around the university. He said, "We have increased the guards system, but in order to complete all the necessities a big budget is needed."

Among the planned projects are plans to build a high wall fence and to fortify windows with iron bars.

NO SUSPECTS YET

One week after the killing of three Hebron University students and the wounding of 37 others, there have been no progress reports from police or military spokesmen about the investigation. No arrests have been reported. An army spokesman in Jerusalem told *Al Fajr* that no statement will be released until the investigation is over.

Meanwhile, Israeli Knesset member Yossi Sarid said a secret Israeli organisation, made up of fanatical rightist Jews whose mission is to carry out sabotage operations against the Arabs of the West Bank, is responsible for most of the recent attacks against Arabs. He rejected accustions levelled at him by some ruling coalition members and stressed that such criticism only served to encourage the secret organisation to greater acts of violence.

Sarid believed the members of the organisation have had experience in sabotage operations. The Israeli security apparatus has been unable to uncover their identities so far, Sarid believes, because police have been obstructed. He also said that the secret vigilante organization would not hesitate to strike at Jewish targets considered hostile to the Israeli settlement policy and the government's creeping annexation of the West Bank.

Surgeon Released

Jihad Awnalla, a surgeon at the Rafidiya Hospital, Nablus, was released from jail, July 29, after four days. His lawyer, Walid Fahoum, told *Al Fajr* that he had contacted the military legal advisor in the West Bank, the Nablus police and international human rights organisations to press for the physician's release.

Jihad Awnalla was arrested on charges of "hiding evidence." Israeli soldiers found a bullet in the hospital, which he took from the body of Ilham Abu Zarour, the Nablus woman shot by settlers, July 26, as he was operating on her trying to save her life.

LEVINGER STOPS HEBRON REPAIR

While the military government moves to consolidate Israel's hold on the Hebron central bus station, settlers are taking their own actions to try and grab the nearby market. On July 31, Rabbi Moshe Levinger, the right-wing Gush Emunim leader who lives in downtown Hebron, stopped Rasmi Abu Sneineh, an owner of a vegetable shop, from repairing and painting his shop, which was damaged in the arsoning of the market area by settlers, July 7. Levinger and his gang claimed that they now own the market, according to local reports. The rabbi, a Kiryat Arba councillor, ordered Abu Sneineh to sign a rental contract with him, but Abu Sneineh refused. Levinger and his supporters harassed Abu Sneineh for three hours, until police came. A senior officer later succeeded in getting Levinger to leave.

Settlers are apparently gratified by the rabbi's departure.

Levinger is having his own spat with fellow settlers. He quit the Kiryat Arba council, August 3, when it decided to end the sit-in they have been holding in front of the military governorate to back their demand for more settlement in Hebron and "greater security measures."

They say he has been unilaterally syphoning funds from the budget to his three-building enclave in Hebron.

According to reports by sources close to the settlers, they are also angry at Levinger for not backing fully Kiryat Arba's unilateral decision to destroy a Palestinian house near the settlement. The man who carried out the council's order has yet to be released by the police.

Settlers at Kiryat Arba are calling for new elections so that Levinger, now a Hebron resident, will not be able to stand.

Mazen Hashimeh, in hospital after suffering from asphyxiation./JN

US VETOES UN RESOLUTION, OK'S SETTLEMENTS

The US representative at the UN Security Council voted negatively for the thirteenth time, August 2, killing a resolution condemning the brutal attack on Hebron University and labelling Israeli settlements in the occupied territories illegal. The vote was 13 in favour, one against and one abstention from Zaire.

The draft resolution, which was sponsored by a number of Arab states, stated that Israeli settlement policy in the occupied territories jeopardises the chances for peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem. The resolution called on Israel to suspend its settlement policy, to dismantle all existing settlements and to refrain from establishing new ones. It also condemned all attacks against Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories, particularly the attack on Hebron University.

The failed resolution was a compromise from an earlier one which specified Israel as responsible for the attack on the university, in which three Palestinian residents were killed and 38 more were wounded.

In an explanation of the US veto, US representative to the Security Council Jeanne Kirkpatrick said that her government does not consider Israeli practices illegal or coercive, nor aimed at forcing the Arab population out, nor does the US think it is "practical" to call for the dismantlement of Israeli settlements.

Compromise Sought In Dheisheh Appeal

The Israeli High Court in Jerusalem, July 28, held a session on the appeal of 15 Dheisheh refugee camp residents against the Israeli military authorities' closure of the main entrance to the camp, nearly two months ago.

During the session, the military government representative, military Attorney General Captain Barak, tried to get the court to drop the case. He argued the military government has appointed a special committee to look into Dheisheh residents' grievences. The Israeli official also presented the court with a long list of what he called "residents' security violations" for April and May. The list stated that during those two months, 21 stone-throwing incidents were reported in which six Israelis were injured. The Israeli official also read from the prepared report that one day before the camp's entrance was sealed off, three stoning incidents were recorded. Reading into more details, he said that between September 1982, and June 1983, two military vehicles, ten buses, and 27 civilian cars were stoned in front of the camp. "From August 1982, to June this year, 23 Israelis were wounded in the same area," he went on.

During the few days which preceded the court session, the Israeli military governorate Attorney General tried to arrange an agreement under which the military would open a new entrance to the camp, in exchange for the court case being dropped. The residents, however, rejected this offer and insisted on the reinstatement of the front entrance, which opens onto the main Jerusalem-Hebron road. "The entrance proposed by the military is very far from the common places in the camp," one resident said. Israeli military authorities are going ahead with their plans to open another entrance.

A secondary road was paved by military authorities, August 3. No time has been set for the next court session.

Israel Doubles Taxes for Nablus Businesses

The Israeli head of the Nablus tax department recently sent out the annual business tax demands. Dozens of the bills arrived in the names of individuals long dead. Others arrived for people who have not lived in the city for years; some for living and present residents who do not have businesses.

These events were upsetting and perplexing. Bona fide merchants and business owners, however, are angry about the exorbitant demands which many say, according to the head of the local chanber of commerce Zafir Masri, their businesses cannot support.

Masri says that the West Bank's former Jordanian taxation system has been progressively brought into line with the Israeli system. Under Jordan, merchants pay taxes only on revenues over JD1000; Israeli military orders have reduced this to JD500.

The former maximum tax of 55 percent was levied on incomes of over JD8000, points out Masri. This is now levied on incomes in the JD 3-4000 range.

Jordanian exemptions: JD320 for families of six-plus; JD 50 per old person; and JD 200 for each university student were set by Israel at a maximum of JD 150, Masri told *Al Fajr*.

Business people's major complaint, however, concerns the way taxation is administered. 'Sabah,' the pseudonym of the Israeli in charge of the local tax department, is physical proof of the distortion of Jordanian law, notes Masri. Non-Jordanians cannot legally be appointed to tax posts. He is the only Israeli in such a position.

Perhaps more importantly, the Israeli director is accused of not understanding the economic problem of the city and being incapable of proposing reasonable solutions.

Masri points out that since 1967 there have been no local appeals courts and that anyone wanting to question tax department edicts must go to those same authorities for redress.

Youths Held for Forest Fires

Israeli military authorities detained 12 residents form Silet al-Harthiyeh, northeast of Jenin, in mid-July on suspicion that they destroyed nearly 700 trees in Givat Oz settlement. The twelve youths, whose ages range between 16 and 19, were also accused of burning forests in Ain Jenin settlement, which was built on Jenin lands, nearly one year ago.

Yeshiva Sabotages Old City Neighbours

JERUSALEM — Students of Yeshivot in the Old City of Jerusalem have gone on a rampage against their Arab neighbours, according to Hebrew press reports.

The catalogue of misdeeds included an incident involving the family of Ahmad Abu Rajab, who lives with his wife and nine children in a small house in the Old City. The second storey of the building houses about 60 religious students and reports stated that sewage from the yeshiva regularly seeps into the Abu Rajab home.

A few days ago, two yeshiva students broke into the house and tossed a gas grenade inside. As a result, Ahmad's wife lost consciousness and had to be treated in the hospital. Abu Rajab said he summoned the police, who turned off the yeshiva's water taps, but as soon as they had gone the students turned them on again and toilets became flooded once more and overflowed into the Abu Rajab home.

In another case, Mazen Hashimeh, 23, was hospitalised for four days at the Hospice hospital in the Old City after he suffered gas inhalation on July 30. His brother's wife was also treated at the same hospital after she complained of similar symptoms. It was not known who turned the gas on. However, the settler neighbours are believed to be behind it.

Arab residents of the quarter claim the students damaged the sewage pipes on purpose in a further bid to harass them and force them to leave. According to Morris Zilka, West Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek's Advisor on Arab Affairs, nearly 89 percent of the students at the yeshiva have criminal pasts and their principal aim is to drive the Arabs out of the Old City.

A municipality spokesman admitted that the students were terrorising the Arabs, but said it was powerless to stop them.

NABLUS SETTLEMENT NOOSE

NABLUS — The Israeli military authorities have intensified their efforts to encircle Nablus with a ring of Jewish settlements.

Reports said bulldozers have been digging up the lands belonging to the Beit Fouriq village, east of Nablus, in preparation for the setting up of Petronot settlement, which would be the latest addition to the string of Jewish enclaves comprising 'Upper Nablus', Elon Moreh Deir al-Hatab and Kufr Kadoum.

Villagers fear the authorities may be contemplating building an airport near Beit Fouriq and Beit Dajal. Contractors claimed they have been prospecting for oil in the area.

Residents claim construction workers are blasting away at rocks near a 20-square kilometre plain, which would be ideal as the site of a projected airport.

Beit Fouriq villagers say they have been the target of continued harassment recently. The village's main road is littered with potholes; shepherds have been relentlessly hounded, and their flocks raided, gunmen have shot at villagers and killed several head of cattle.

The Israeli authorities confiscated 15,000 dunums of land near the village and set up a new settlement there.

Residents said some time ago the authorities confiscated 500 sheep and, despite an appeal to the courts, the animals were not returned to their owners until the latter had paid a JD4000 fine.

Land Confiscated Despite Documents

Over 20 families, owners of land in Mazra'a Sharqiyeh, Ramallah district, filed a demand, August 2, with the Military Objections Committee for an order banning the confiscation of their land in the village. Israeli authorities confiscated 1300 dunums in Mazra'a, claiming it belongs to the government. Residents told *Al Fajr* they have the necessary documents to show their ownership.

Military Order 1060, which was issued last week, forbids direct access to courts in land registration cases.

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LEGALISING REPRISALS

Two Bir Zeit University students were sentenced at an Israeli military court, August 2, to 18 months imprisonment after being convicted of participating in a demonstration on campus, July 27. The only witness against them was an Israeli soldier who claimed in court that he saw them in the demonstration. He admitted his eyes were naked at the time. The two students insisted they did not participate in the protest.

A simple review of the facts related to the arrest and conviction of these two students shows the only possible justice that can be found in the dictionaries of occupation.

Bir Zeit University students held a protest against the slaughter of fellow university students in Hebron the previous day. The Israeli army interfered and shot tear gas bombs onto the campus. When the students responded by throwing stones, the army shot real bullets and wounded four students. Another was hit by a tear gas cannister.

The university administration intervened and tried to calm the situation. An agreement was concluded that if the army stopped shooting, the administration would help disperse the demonstrators on condition that the students would be allowed to go home peacefully.

Students were then packed into buses and sent home but the army, which had a checkpoint outside the BZU campus, arrested 70 of them after some kind of guessing game. Twenty-six of them were kept overnight and remanded for trial, the two above-mentioned students among them.

Through the sixteen years of occupation, new evidence has been added daily to prove one unchallengable fact; vis, the occupation's legal system was created for one purpose only – to legalise the repression and retaliation.

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ISRAEL PULLS BACK, US UNHAPPY?

by Ghassan Bishara
Our Washington DC Correspondent

Once again the government of Israel has made a move in direct contradiction to stated US policy and to that of its partner in the last agreement, the government of Lebanon. One day after his phone conversation with the US president cancelling his visit to Washington, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's government announced its resolve to redeploy its forces within Lebanon to south of the Awali River.

The move, according to American sources, was contemplated for a long time by Israel and was discussed with Secretary of State Shultz during his recent visit to Jerusalem. The exact timing, a State Department official told us, was not known to them. Asked by *Al Fajr* if the US was consulted before Israel announced its decision, as had been agreed upon between the two parties, the official, whose name could not be revealed under the terms of the briefing, answered in the negative. The US will do nothing except talk to the Israelis about it. The US policy on redeployment of Israeli forces, he said, continues to be that any unilateral move should contribute to the ultimate goal of achieving withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, Lebanese sovereignty and security for Israel's northern border. The official would not comment on whether the Israeli redeployment does in fact contribute to these stated goals.

Nonetheless, American officials both at the State Department and the White House are reported to be unhappy about the redeployment. To both American and Lebanese officials, the redeployment is tantamount to the partitioning of Lebanon. Amin Gemayel, asked about this while on Capitol Hill, said that the move creates a *de facto* partition of his country. The Israeli pullback, as it is now, will not affect the Israeli army deployed in the Beqa'a facing the Syrian army.

Although American officials claim that no details of the redeployment are known to them, many experts believe otherwise. It was revealed last week that two Israeli generals spent time at the Pentagon talking about redeployment. This meeting was attended by State Department officials as well. The decision by Israel to act at the risk of marking US-Israeli relations is believed to be a result of increased attacks on the Israeli army in Lebanon and a spiralling financial cost to an already very unhealthy economy. The redeployment will cut by approximately 10 percent the number of Israeli soldiers in Lebanon, estimated now at 30,000.

Many experts believe only half of the Israeli objectives can be met. The attacks against the Israeli presence in Lebanon will not be affected by the redeployment, since most attacks against Israeli troops are being carried out in the South Lebanon, exactly in the area where Israeli troops will be redeployed.

Amin Gemayel on Syria

In the US for the second time in less than a year, the Lebanese president, Amin Gemayel, though unhappy with Israel's decision, reserved his harshest attacks for Syria, blaming that country for the Israeli withdrawal decision and for shells falling on East Beirut.

In a breakfast press conference in Washington, Gemayel harshly criticised Syria for its refusal to withdraw its troops from Lebanon. Answering questions, the Lebanese president threatened that the shells falling on Beirut from Syrian-controlled areas and, he implied, from Syrian guns, if not stopped, will "be sent back to Damascus." He also said that if the Arab League cannot bring about Syrian troop withdrawal from his country, "other ways will have to be found." The Lebanese president said that he never believed that the Syrian refusal to withdraw was so vehement. However, Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem, while on his way from Lebanon to the US only a few days earlier, expressed optimism about Syrian withdrawal.

The Lebanese president's criticism of Syria, implying that the Syrian army was responsible for the shelling, is in contradiction to statements made yesterday by a State Department official. The official, talking to foreign correspondents in Washington, said that he could not confirm that the shells falling on Beirut were Syrian shells. He also, and possibly for the first time, made clear that the US government certainly recognises a difference between the Syrian presence in Lebanon and that of Israel. This American soft treatment of Syria is believed to be a new strategy aimed at convincing Syria to withdraw its forces from Lebanon. This also came only a day before both the White House and State Department expressed appreciation to Hafez al-Assad and his brother Rifa'at for their assistance in the release of David Dodge, American University of Beirut's acting president, who was kidnapped on July 18, 1982. The Israelis, however, in a letter to the US, tried officially to make a link between their agreement concluded with Lebanon, which does not mention Syria, and Syrian withdrawal. American officials, though they acknowledged receiving the letter, said they do not necessarily accept its contents.

The visit of Amin Gemayel to Washington is establishing a few precedents. He is being offered the American presidential jet to travel to Houston, Texas and Detroit, Michigan to visit the Lebanese communities. For the first time security is being beefed up; an expolosives-sniffing German shepherd was brought to the State Department to ensure Gemayel's safety. On security also, the National Association of Arab Americans sent a letter to all its members in the country, inviting them to Washington to attend a conference with the Lebanese president. The NAAA wrote in its letter that the State Department required that all who attended this conference have to provide even their social security numbers. When asked about this, the State Department denied any such requests, and so did White House security, which the NAAA later claimed was the originator of these unprecedented demands. According to the protocol section of the State Department, it was the Lebanese embassy which had requested this information, denying that any federal government agency had anything to do with it.

Habib Ousted

On the south lawn of the White House, while summing up Gemayel's visit to the White House, President Reagan announced that Robert McFarlane will replace Philip Habib as his personal emissary to the Middle East with the rank of ambassador. This move by the Reagan administration represents a victory for the government of Syria, which refused to receive Habib in Damascus.

Robert McFarlane, a 46-year-old White House staffer, will leave for the region in less than 10 days. In addition to his new assignment, McFarlane will continue to hold the title of the president's Deputy for the National Security Chief under William Clark. McFarlane will have an additional office at the State Department and will report to the press through Secretary Shultz. He will also have access to Reagan in his second capacity as a National Security Department advisor. This last point is being emphasised since the administration would like to leave the impression with the Syrian government that McFarlane's appointment represents an upgrading of Habib's position to one which has personal access to the White House.

OPINION

AL FAJR invites our readers to contribute letters, articles, and opinions. Contributions must be signed, but names may be withheld upon request.

Not only a smile...

Against Mixing of Terms for a Secular Humanism

by Thoma Shick

On July 12, the Van Leer Institute in West Jerusalem held a one day seminar that was advertised as the founding meeting of an Israeli Society and Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism. It was attended by prominent and well known Israeli academicians, politicians and representatives of the American Society for Humanistic Judaism. The audience was composed of Mapam, Labour Party and kibbutz members and many Americans. It was not easy to distinguish whether the latter were inhabitants or tourists. Two of the five sessions of the seminar took place in English.

The third session was dedicated to the technical details of the Humanistic Judaic Congregations in the US, as well as to organisational issues in Israel and affiliation with the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU). Here there was a collision with members of the Israel Secular Humanist Association (ISHA), which is already a member of the IHEU. ISHA has existed for the last four years and is the follow-up of other organisational attempts that started in 1976. The ISHA is a humanist organisation, open for all the inhabitants of Israel. (Unfortunately, no Arabs have joined it so far!)

The speakers and other contributors emphasised the importance of world Jewish ties, in the framework of which it is necessary to have a secular humanistic stream as well. Then the accident occured and Professor Zeev Katz, of Hebrew University, found it necessary to make clear: "...but we'll always be a Zionist organisation."

The ancestors of 'Pragmatic Zionism' thought nothing of mixing and blurring terms. Their 'anti-religious' leader – David Ben Gurion – tied, in his time, the fate of 'Socialist Zionism' with the National Religious Party and cancelled pluralistic education, and within it the Labour education. Afterwards, the system of imparting 'Jewish Consciousness' was enrooted in the Israeli state educational set-up, initiated by the so-called secular Mapai Minister of Education, Zalman Aran – that same system serves now as fertile soil for the almost total Judaisation of the educational system by today's Zeveulen Hammer of the National Religious faction. (The National Religious have been good both for the 'socialists' and the 'revisionists' – the main point being Zionism!)

Today, the Labour Alignment people are establishing what they call in English a Society and Institute for Humanistic Judaism, *Aguda Vemachon Israeli Lema'an Yahadut Hilonit Humanistit*. In the 'renewed' ancient Hebrew language, unlike the English, there is no word to distinguish between the various possible meanings of *Yahadut*. It can mean culture or folklore – ie Jewishness, the religion – Judaism, or the populace – Jewry. This is an anachronism that has been preserved not in vain. It is exploited for socio-political purposes in a highly talented and artistic way by expert mind-confusers. They do this, of course, instead of clarifying things and separating between the terms and the entities.

It is clear to every honest person that as long as the terms cannot be separated – as long as the people (folk) are not separated from religion, as long as culture is not separated from religion – there can be no separation between religion and state. It is well known to the wise and to the sophisticated that without separation of religion and state (a situation that is desirable and essential if respect for *human* rights is to be the basis of society) there cannot be true democracy, but only illusion and charade. It should be made clear: *yahadut*, meaning Judaism, is the name of the religion, and therefore it is impossible to have a secular-humanistic Judaism. The people subscribing to such a persuasion would be called *yahadutim*, or Judaists.

Jewish people in Israel (better, Hebrew people) compose the group of people whose spoken and usable language is modern Hebrew (therefore the persons would be Jews or Hebrews).

A separation should also be made between the Israeli Jewish people and those persons who are referred to as world Jewry. The common denominator of this group is neither Hebrew nor their location, and not even a common culture. At best it is their religion that in most cases is artificially awakened, and where this is not so it cannot be assumed that Orthodoxy is *a priori* Zionist.

The creation of a new Judaistic entity does not change the nature of the religious ties.

Human beings in the United States, for instance, who have a Judaistic personal-family life, who wish to be secular humanists, have to do nothing more difficult than join the secular people whose personal-family background could be Christian, Islamic, Buddhist or other. Judaistic and Jewish segregation have always caused anti-semitism, just as any religious chauvinism has caused antagonism and collisions.

Objection to what is being called 'assimilation' is not a secular humanistic aim, as secularism and humanism are universalist; rather, it fits with apartheid. The creation of a national secular humanism is a nationalism that does not oppose religious-nationalism, but rather it serves as its justification, as a helpmate.

There is only one possible practical 'justification' for the creation of the androgynous secular humanist Judaism – the Zionist aim to seduce more people to come and settle the so-called historical territories of *Eretz Israel*, which are populated by Palestinian Arab inhabitants; and then the cat is out of the bag. This is not an objection to the Gush Emunim colonialism but a Labour Party political underground against the Likud-National Religious Party ties.

If Zionism was humanistic at any stage of its history, then such a stage ended with the establishment of the state of Israel...Settled and well-to-do people in their locations are uprooting themselves and coming to settle on the soil of a settled and well-to-do people. The latter are forcibly uprooted and expelled. This is not humanism.

If Zionism was humanistic at any stage of its history, then such a stage ended with the establishment of the state of Israel; establishing a state is the aim of every national liberation movement and what is beyond that for sure cannot be considered an humanistic liberation of an oppressed human. Once this aim has been achieved and Jews have settled in (smaller or bigger) *Eretz Israel*, if they honestly want to be secular humanists they should not be seduced by materialistic and spiritual concepts and ideological tricks. Settled and well-to-do people in their locations are uprooting themselves and coming to settle on the soil of a settled and well-to-do people. These latter are forcibly uprooted and expelled. This is not humanism.

If this is not religious Judaism, then this is religious Zionism, and indeed both of them – for those who claim a Jewish state, or in its more fashionable version 'Jewish democracy,' in a country that is populated by two peoples cannot be humanists, nor secular, but a sort of mixture that is devoted to exclusivism. And exclusivism is at least a sort of religion.

A true secular humanistic response to the above-mentioned odd and confusing organisation is a strong organisation of true secular humanists in *Eretz Israel-Falastin*. The members of this secular humanist sect would be people whose personal-family background is from the Hebrew and Arabic cultures, on one hand, and from educational backgrounds of Judaism, Islam, Christianity and Druze, on the other – those who are fed up with the religious, national and religious-national education of their parents and their societies respectively, who strive for a humanist egalitarian society in the Orient-Mediterranean sea coast. Let us not hide – such an organisation would be intended to be a legal and practical alternative to the oppressing nationalism and to the oppressed nationalism, one that comes to make a bridge between peoples who have been incited against each other by ancient social traditions. A social order that would be based on human rights would be possible only at the moment when both groups would consider the other equal.

Then everybody would maintain the cultural matters at home and the community within cooperation and exchange with their neighbours.

with a smile
–Thoma

(Thoma Shick is Secretary of the Israeli Secular Humanist Association, and contact person for the International Humanist Ombudsman of the IHEU – here writing in private capacity.)

Dry Bones
Reprinted from The Jerusalem Post
WHAT IS IT CALLED WHEN POLITICS AND RELIGION ARE KEPT APART?
DEMOCRACY
AND WHAT IS IT WHEN A GOVT IS BASED ON A RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY?
THEOCRACY
SO WHAT IS OUR SYSTEM CALLED?
BLACKMAIL AND INTIMIDATION!
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The Hydraulic Imperative

by John Cooley

Middle East International, July 1983

There is a double historical irony in the recent denials by Israeli spokesmen, including the new ambassador in Washington, Meir Rosen, that they attach any importance to water resources in Lebanon, Syria, or elsewhere in the Middle East's political conflicts. Israel's own water situation, like that of its neighbours, especially Jordan, is growing ever more difficult. Dwindling water resources and growing water needs in Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria could be one cause of the next Middle East war, or a cornerstone for settlement — or both.

Thirty years ago this summer, Israel had just begun work on its partial division of the Jordan River north of the Sea of Galilee (the Jordan's natural reservoir) into Israel's new National Water Carrier. This was destined to become a system of pipes, siphons, reservoirs and dams flowing southward to the Naqab desert. During that hot summer of 1953, Syrian artillery rained shells on the Israeli water diversion sites west of the Sea of Galilee. The Israelis were finally obliged to move their main pumping station from the northern end of the sea, where the Jordan's main flow was discharged into the lake, to a more sheltered location to the west of the sea. Realising that Israel's diversion of the Jordan, which it considered essential for its national survival, contained the seeds of a new Middle East was, President Eisenhower sent Ambassador Eric Johnston to the region, who concluded that a regional water plan was needed if a war for water resources was to be avoided. The concept of integrated regional water development was to be the governing principle.

Most of the Johnston proposals remain valid today, and many remain part of the local water plans of Israel, Jordan, and the other riparian states: dams on the Hasbani River in Lebanon, the Banias in Syria and the Dan in Israel; irrigation by hydropower projects in all three countries; drainage of the Huleh swamps south of Kiryat Shemona in Israel (this was soon completed); building a dam on the Yarmouk River, between Syria's Golan Heights and northern Jordan; a series of smaller canals, weirs and other installations to ensure ample watering of both banks of the Jordan valley, now deprived of the bulk of its former sweet water by the Israeli diversion project. Johnston also proposed various different quotas of water for Israel and each of its Arab neighbours.

The Arab states countered with somewhat different plans and proposed an international body to supervise the sharing of water. The Israeli counter-proposal provided for diversion of about one-third of the flow of Lebanon's Litani River into Israel, and for diversion of Jordan headwaters, including the Hasbani (rising in Lebanon), the Dan (rising inside Israel's 1948 frontier) and the Banias (gushing from rocks in Syria's Golan Heights). All were to be made to flow into Israel's water system, and stored in a reservoir at Beit Natofa, just north of Nazareth.

There was no agreement, though at times it seemed close. By 1959, the riparian Arab states of the Jordan valley had worked out a scheme, in which Lebanon would bear the lion's share of the risk, to prevent the Jordan headwaters from reaching Israel by diverting them first. The lynchpins of the scheme were to divert the Hasbani into the Litani (which flows on within Lebanon), and to make the Banias, too, flow into the Litani. It was small wonder that the first Israeli diversion plans for the Litani came into being then.

In the 1967 war, Israel captured the Banias and set the stage, tactically and geographically, for its later push into Lebanon to seize the course of the Litani, finally carried out in June 1982. By the end of its temporary incursion of 1978 into South Lebanon, Israel controlled all of the Jordan headwaters, including a small stream called the Wazzani rising near Marjayoun, in South Lebanon, and had placed Major Saad Haddad's militiamen in charge of the other aquifirs, springs and rivulets which either feed into Israel or can be made to do so. Though Yuval Ne'eman entered the Israeli cabinet in July 1982 as minister for science and development with the announced intention of working out water "sharing" projects with Lebanon, Israel's desire for a share of Litani water was never once raised during the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations for the withdrawal agreement, signed under American patronage on 17 May. Ne'eman claimed that the Israeli military campaign in Lebanon had revealed to him and to ex-defence minister Ariel Sharon "how little Litani water is left over -- barely a trickle" downstream, because the Lebanese Litani River authority, in their power stations and irrigation works, which depend on the Karaoun dam and lake upstream, put it to such good use. Ne'eman did acknowledge that Israeli engineers had carried out seismic soundings and tests near the Litani's westward bend, the ideal place for a diversion tunnel which would only need to be about three miles long to reach Israel's Huleh water system. However, he contended there were no diversion plans now, though "if Lebanon wants to sell us some of that little water later, we would be glad to buy it and put it to use in the northern Galilee."

Old Lebanese anxieties about the Litani revived when Israeli officers seized all of the Karaoun dam's hydrographic charts and technical data relating to the river when they occupied the site in June and July 1982. They are shared, discreetly, by Syria. President Hafez al-Assad has his own strategic water problem to worry about: how to protect the headwaters of the Orontes, which rise near Baalbek, where the Palestinian factions are now battling. The Orontes flows northward into Syria's Lake of Homs, watering the fertile Syrian farmlands to its south and west and driving hydropower plants on the way. So concerned were the Syrians about the possibility of the Orontes falling into hostile hands that just before the May 17 Israeli-Lebanese agreement was signed, they notified the Lebanese power and public works minister, Behaeddin Bhat, that a signed Lebanese-Syrian security treaty would have to include a clause guaranteeing protection of the Orontes headwaters before Syrian troops could be withdrawn from Lebanon.

If Israel ever changed its policy to one of actively diverting Litani water, Lebanese water engineers estimate they could take about 100 million cubic metres a year (from 700 million cubic metres, hardly the "trickle" referred to so derisively by Yuval Ne'eman). This could be done by diverting through a tunnel bored through from the Israeli side, passing almost directly under the Lebanese village of Kfar Kela and emerging deep in the Litani gorge below Deir Mimas, just before the river bends westward. To secure this diversion, Israel would have to stay on in Lebanon and hold at least the entire Beqa'a valley south of the Damascus road, to protect Lake Karaoun from counter-attack and pre-empt Lebanon's use of the water further south, in Lebanon's arid panhandle (which Lebanon could do by building a small dam and a reservoir south of Marjayoun).

Israeli planners say they are trying to meet their water needs by recycling used irrigation and waste water, and through expensive desalination plants. However, those who have studied the Israeli water system on the spot find it hard to escape one major conclusion about Israel's hydraulic imperative: one new water source -- whether the Litani or the Yarmouk — will be needed by 1990 at Israel's present huge rates of water consumption (almost five times that of each of her neighbours, though their consumption is rising too). The only alternative would be a return to a rational water plan for the entire area. Such a concept would require a revolution in the mental processes of planners in all the nations who have been concerned about Middle East water in the past, especially the United States.

The Real Cost of US Aid to Israel

by Claudia Wright

Middle East International, July 1983

It is an open secret that many defence department officials oppose the rising level of US military assistance to Israel and the demands from the Israelis and their congressional supporters for the US to subsidise Israel's international arms trade.

When a government report entitled "US assistance to the state of Israel" was issued on June 24, the Israeli embassy and spokesmen for the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the major Israel lobby group, hailed it for backing their demands. The *Near East Report*, an AIPAC newsletter, editorialised that the report prepared by the General Accounting Office (GAO), an independent congressional agency, "confirms what Israel's friends have long been arguing...that Israel needs the aid if it is to repel the external threat to its existence..." The editorial went on: "The GAO does not question the need, levels or terms of aid to Israel."

These claims are false, and the Israel lobby's celebration premature. The original, classified version of the GAO report makes several fundamental criticisms of the US aid programme for Israel. Defence and CIA officials are cited as criticising Israel's assessments of Arab threats, its military needs, the level of cash requested from the US and the types and terms of aid provided.

What has happened is vulgarly known as a "fix". Pro-Israel officials at are that the US will fund half of the State Department, the Pentagon and the CIA collaborated with the Israeli embassy in Washington to remove most traces of US disagreement with Israel.

When the public and secret versions of the document are compared, it is evident just how far the Reagan administration has acquiesced in financing Israel's defence industries to beat US and French competition in the international arms trade. If the administration accepts the current Israeli demands identified in the report, US financial aid to Israel is likely to rise by more than $2.7 billion over the next decade just to enable Israel to meet its *existing* debts to the US.

The public version of the document says: "The United States generally supports Israeli plans for its forces' modernisation and agrees that there is an Arab threat to Israel." The secret version is very different. It challenges Israel's assessments of Arab military threat as unrealistic and exaggerated.

The secret version also reports the Pentagon judgement that Israel's military build-up is larger and costlier than necessary. Israel's military needs, according to the report, "can be met at annual levels of $1.4 billion" — this is 18 percent *less* than the planned 1984 level of $1.7 billion, and about a third less than Israel's 1984-5 requests. The CIA reports that "Israeli expectations (Israel's) defence budget" — current US funding provides about 37 percent.

Assuming no new loans, the annual repayment of interest and principal will rise so steeply in the next ten years that by 1993, GAO estimates, there will be a "gap" between the current level of Economic Support Fund (ESF) grants ($785m), and what Israel will owe, of $955m. This "debt gap" is three times higher than the officially released figures show.

The classified documents suggest that Congress' willingness to provide ESF grants to repay each year's debt gap will cost more than $2.7 billion over the next decade. This total will be forced much higher by new loans unless Congress converts the annual Foreign Military Sales (FMS) loans into grants. The 1984 loan ammount is $850m, the grant amount $850m. According to the secret report, most US officials expect this total of $1.7 billion to be the "new minimum" for Israel in the future. In ten years that will add another $8.5 billion in loans to be paid off, or alternatively, another $17 billion in direct grants from the US budget.

One way of lowering this enormous budgetary drain is for the US to channel equivalent funds to Israel by buying Israeli-produced weapons and military goods. The public version identifies a variety of US military contracts awarded to Israeli firms, and other lucrative military aid transactions. But the secret version reveals that former Secretary of State Alexander Haig gave the Begin government a commitment to procure $200m worth of Israeli military goods each year as part of the now frozen US-Israel Memorandum of Understanding. In fact, as the secret version reveals, US officials concluded that the "US could not procure, on a competitive basis, enough Israeli military equipment to achieve the $200m goal." And so Israel proposed a series of alternatives which the Reagan administration is still considering. If approved, Israel's requests will divert US military assistance into non-military trade subsidies which were never intended by Washington. US defence department officials are reported to be particularly "reticent" about such Israeli proposals as:

* subsidising Israel to buy its own weapons and to sell those weapons to El Salvador, Zaire and other countries also receiving US credits;

* spending US funds on an export promotion system for Israeli arms in competition with US arms;

* allowing Israel to sell back to the US its obsolete and surplus equipment for possible third-country transfer. This touches on the highly secret collaboration of the CIA and Mossad in financing and arming the Afghan Mujahidin, anti-Sandinista groups in Nicaragua, Jonas Savimbi's UNITA rebellion in Angola and Hissene Habre's forces in Chad.

GAZA: Making Deserts Into Resorts...

by Anita Vitullo

While settlement-watchers fix their attention on the 80-100 Israeli settlements which rub next to and over Palestinian towns in the West Bank, Israelis are quietly moving into 'trouble-free' Gaza: Over 500,000 Palestinians -- most of whom fled besieged villages in south Palestine during the 1948 war -- are pushed into the bone-shaped coastal strip, making it one of the most densely populated areas on earth. Yet, Israeli Hebrew papers report, it is currently attracting far more would-be settlers than the West Bank. So many Israelis signed up for colonies in Gaza during the May 1983 settlement campaign that the Israeli government announced this week it is looking into ways to substantially increase its subsidies and release construction funds to meet the demand. But why Gaza...where 2240 Palestinians share each square kilometre? And why now, 16 years into the occupation?

Until 1978, the then 500 settlers in the Gaza Strip were confined to four military posts which straddled the main highway between Gaza City and Rafah. The Labour Party had been more interested in populating the Sinai in the ten years it was under Israeli control; at least 20 army nahals and civilian centres had been erected, housing 4500 settlers (1700 in Yamit). An important strategy for the Sinai settlement project was to physically shut Gaza from its sustaining ties with Egypt.

When the Sinai settlements were frozen during the disengagement talks, the four nahals in Gaza were transformed into civilian settlements. Under the new Likud government, some of the hardline Sinai settlers were mollified with placement in the existing Gaza settlements. Likud has opened ten more settlements since 1978, is currently constructing two large resort-amed colonies in the northwest corner and is relocating the Sinai settlements of Mitzpe Otzmonah and Alai Sinai.

The settlement administrative network, the regional council of Gaza coast as it is called, groups 10 agricultural and religious settlements. Apparently outside of it are the older, Labour-initiated colonies of Kfar Darom, Netzer Hazani, Morag and Netzarim. Each settlement is projected to accomodate 120 families with a population goal of 10,000 in 5 years.

More important than a transfer of population, the settlements are strategic territorial anchors in Gaza for water confiscation through deep drill wells and for shoreline tourist projects. Only this year has the road abutting the coast been completed -- at the same time that the edges of refugee camps are being bulldozed house-by-house and talk a- bounds of resettlement schemes. The beach project appears to be seriously underway. Settlement literature describes an unnamed "religious recreation village as the first in a framework of developing tourist projects along the pretty seashore." A summer camp was scheduled this year, organised by the ministry of education.

The Nisanit cluster, between the Gaza village of Beit Lahia and the sea, is intended to house 800 families, according to the local Jewish Agency's settlement division. One of the three, Alai Sinai, consists of two trailers and another, Nevets Sala, has only begun construction. Local observers are convinced Israel plans to transform the area into a tourist resort. Settlement in this upper corner ideally suits Ismeli needs: the beach area is one of the most beautiful along the coast, relatively unpolluted and accessible from Ashkelon and Tel Aviv without approaching Palestinian population centres.

In fact, through a cleverly constructed grid of roads, every settlement is within minutes from the 'green line'. Despite the crowded conditions in Gaza, all can be approached without by-passing a Palestinian town, village or refugee camp. This is particularly relieving for would-be settlers who are nervous about stone-throwing youths aiming at Israeli cars. For some Israelis, Gaza is a second choice to the more temperate West Bank, but ultimately preferred because of the more controlled apartheid life. Settlement advocates boast of 'good' relations with their neighbours, but except for the confiscated Palestinian land on which each settlement sits, the existences are separate and independent. Unlike the West Bank, few Arabs work on settlements in Gaza, even as construction workers; the religious moshavim are adherents of 'Jewish labour'.

The religious emphasis of the newer settlememts has been reinforced by the set-up of a four-year *magal* (high institute of Torah studies) in 1981 which trains "spiritual leadership for working settlements" and a Zionist college at Kfar Dalon, run by the Israeli ministry of education, "to strengthen the nucleus of new settlements for the moshavim union."

In addition, a novel military yeshiva, which "coordinates religious studies with military service" was transferred from Yamit to Neve Dekalim. It currently has 120 enrollees and is being planned to receive 300 in the future.

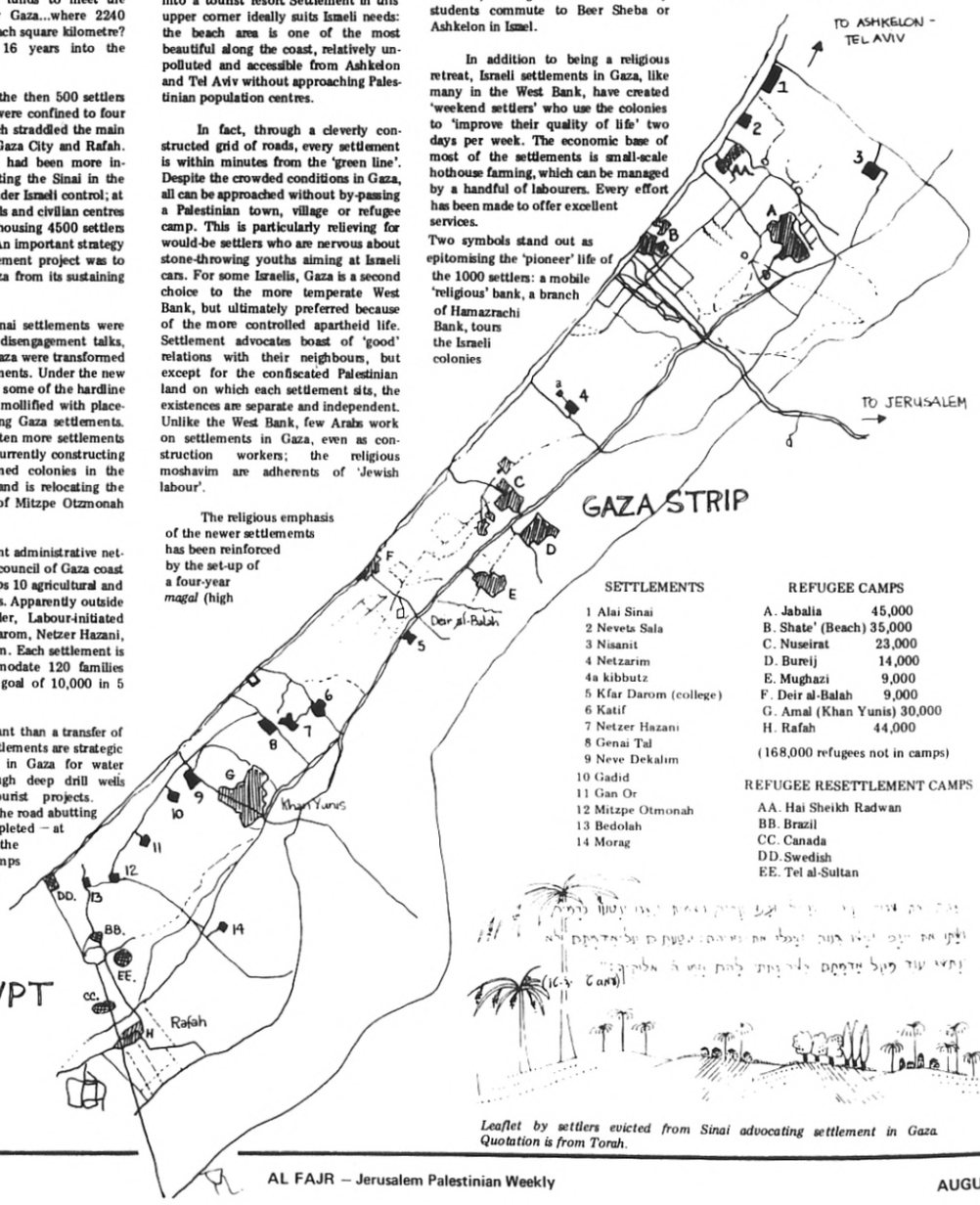
Every settlement has its own day-care centre and kindergarten on site; elementary schools and recreation centres are located regionally (Morag, Neve Dekalim) and high school and university students commute to Beer Sheba or Ashkelon in Israel.

In addition to being a religious retreat, Israeli settlements in Gaza, like many in the West Bank, have created 'weekend settlers' who use the colonies to 'improve their quality of life' two days per week. The economic base of most of the settlements is small-scale hothouse farming, which can be managed by a handful of labourers. Every effort has been made to offer excellent services.

Two symbols stand out as epitomising the 'pioneer' life of the 1000 settlers: a mobile 'religious' bank, a branch of Hamazrachi Bank, tours the Israeli colonies

dispensing and collecting shekels, and four ambulances are parked at the regional infirmary in Netzer Hazareh settlement -- only one fewer than serve the entire Gaza population of a half-million.

The Gaza settlements appear to have been placed to cause as little friction as possible with local Palestinians. However, the huge refugee camps in Gaza -- Jabaliya is the largest with 45,000 people -- present definite problems for long-range Israeli plans for tourist development. If the camps cannot be 'thinned out' through blackmail, bargaining and coercion, the refugees may be resettled *en masse* to sites farther inland -- so that Israelis can frolic without remembering.



SETTLEMENTS

1 Alai Sinai
2 Nevets Sala
3 Nisanit
4 Netzarim
4a kibbutz
5 Kfar Darom (college)
6 Katif
7 Netzer Hazani
8 Genai Tal
9 Neve Dekalim
10 Gadid
11 Gan Or
12 Mitzpe Otmonah
13 Bedolah
14 Morag

REFUGEE CAMPS

A. Jabalia 45,000
B. Shate' (Beach) 35,000
C. Nuseirat 23,000
D. Bureij 14,000
E. Mughazi 9,000
F. Deir al-Balah 9,000
G. Amal (Khan Yunis) 30,000
H. Rafah 44,000

(168,000 refugees not in camps)

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT CAMPS

AA. Hai Sheikh Radwan
BB. Brazil
CC. Canada
DD. Swedish
EE. Tel al-Sultan

Leaflet by settlers evicted from Sinai advocating settlement in Gaza. Quotation is from Torah.

And Camps Into Rubble

by Sami al-Aboudi

More than 20 Palestinian refugee houses in the beachfront Shate'camp, Gaza Strip, were demolished by Israeli occupation authorities between July 10 and 21. Forty more houses have been marked for destruction by the authorities, who claim the houses were built on state land.

Piles of rubble are mounded in the place of one-storey cement-block houses in Shate'. Shate' refugee camp, which is located to the east of Gaza, is inhabited by 35,000 people, according to UNRWA. The bulk of the population was expelled from villages in the Majdal-Asqalan area, 10 kilometres north of the Gaza Strip.

The area threatened with eviction consists of one block, making up more than 100 closely packed houses. It is located at the northern part of the camp near the sea. Metres away, temporary shelters to shield children from the relentless sun have been shaped from blankets, wooden windows, metal doors, and asbestos sheets which previously served as roofs. The many children, some of them sporting only shirts, play in the dirty sand under the lean-to shacks.

Other families whose houses are scheduled for destruction were either busy removing whatever they could salvage or, for those who had no relatives nearby, trying to set up a temporary shelter until they find alternative housing.

The demolition measure, which was carried out in three separate waves by Israeli army bulldozers, took place under the eyes of UNRWA, which supervises all Palestinian camps. Except for verbal protest after the fact, the UN agency was unable to get the Israeli authorities even to provide an alternative site for the threatened houses.

John McAndrew, deputy to the director of UNRWA operations in Gaza, told *Al Fajr* that they inquired with the authorities, trying to get them to provide shelters to which the evicted families could move. "They, however, told us that they gave the families six months to prepare new living places for themselves," he said. When *Al Fajr* told him that the refugees were given two-day notices, he said UNRWA is in "no position to question government replies to them."

One day earlier, July 24, Israeli officers had come to the camp, surveyed the area and recorded some notices on a map, apparently for the same area. Residents said the officers told them that the entire area was to be cleared of houses. Others said they were told they would be moved to resettlement locations near Rafah.

One thing all residents agreed on is that no one knows exactly why they are being evicted. Some were told their houses were built on "government land," others that they had built their houses without a licence. UNRWA officials who were informed after the families were notified of the eviction order early this month, said that the authorities' official excuse is that the houses are built on "government property."

Nationalists in the refugee camp believe that the authorities are using this excuse to give the Palestinian refugees no choice but to go along with the resettlement project. This is, nationalists in the camp say, aimed at dissolving their refugee status.

The latest resettlement scheme was formulated in 1978, after the Israeli housing ministry proposed to build housing projects for residents of the Shate' camp. The authorities were to provide the infrastructure in an area known as Hasheikh Radwan, and two-room houses which were to be leased for 99 years. In exchange, refugees would have to tear down their houses in the camp and forfeit their UNRWA refugee registration card. Very few people agreed to move. Even when the authorities offered larger apartments, the project proved a failure. Access to the UNRWA health and education facilities is much coveted, since their standards far excel those at the military-run, that is, public institutions. There is also an emotional as well as political attachment to the UNRWA ration card as a kind of 'refugee ID'.

People in the camps now say that the authorities resorted to this method as a means to push Palestinian refugees to accept their plans.

One resident, 25 years old and a member of the al-Minawi family originally from Haifa, was busily salvaging some things from his house. He confirmed that some of his neighbours had agreed to forfeit their UNRWA cards in exchange for a land plot in al-Nasser, one of the resettlement sites. He said, however, that his family had refused to apply to the military government's housing department, adding that they are planning to live with relatives until they prepare a new house.

Adib Ahamad Abu Nahel, father of eight children whose four-room house was demolished on July 10, is living with his brother's eight-member family in their father's two-room house. He said that he applied for a house in the al-Nasser area.

McAndrew denied charges by some refugee camp residents that the UN agency had an agreement with the authorities to work for resettlement of refugees. In a telephone interview, July 25, he said that while refugees could obtain government housing outside the camps, they do not give up the UNRWA card and they continue to be eligible for services. He also recalled a 1982 UN General Assembly resolution which urges the UN agency not to associate itself with the resettlement of refugees in the Gaza Strip.

Nafez Abu Daqqah, deputy officer in charge of housing in the Gaza military governorate, was unavailable for comment. An employee said that Abu Daqqah was not authorised to talk to the press.

Elsewhere in Gaza, in the past years, according to official UNRWA statistics, 2183 Palestinian refugees from Rafah were moved to new housing locations in Tal al-Sultan resettlement area, after the authorities demolished their houses to make way for a 'security zone' along the border fence with Rafah-Sanai. 4500 Palestinian refugees in Canada camp, which was turned over to Egypt in accordance with the Camp David agreement, and who were supposed to return to the Strip within six months of the withdrawal, remain in Egyptian territory.

It is unknown how many people will be forced to move into the Israeli-sponsored resettlement areas in Gaza and Rafah. But resistance is likely to be strong. One elderly refugee sitting in front of his home with a number of younger men was telling companions as we passed by, "Even if we have to eat bread and dirt, I will never leave my home."

SETTLEMENT	DATE	LOCATION	TYPE	PARTY	ECONOMIC BASE	LAND	SIZE	FEATURES
Alai Sinai	1983	northwest corner, relocated from Sinai	yeshuvim kilatim	Likud	tourist beach	?	planned for 300 families	private settlement
Nevets Sala	1983	northwest corner	yeshuvim kilatim	Likud	tourist beach	?	planned for 300 families	private settlement
Nisanit	1978	3 km. northeast of Jabaliya camp	nahal	Likud	?	?	?	military post
Netzarim (plus kibbutz)	February 1972	4 km. south of Gaza city	nahal turned moshav	Labour	hothouse vegetables	confiscated from Abu Madyan tribe	30 families	deep drill well
Kfar Darom	October 1970	2 km. south of Mughazi camp	nahal turned religious	Labour	college only	on site of 1948 Jewish settlement	?	settlers' college begun in Sept. 1982 under min. of education; for strengthening the nucleus of new settlements for moshav union
Netzer Hazani	May 1973	5 km. north of Khan Yunis	offshoot of Katif, moshav	Labour	flowers for export, tomatoes, greenhouse vegetables, light industry	30,000 dunums declared state land	39 families (198 people)	regional infirmary
Katif	May 1973	4 km. north of Khan Yunis on road to Deir al-Balah	nahal turned religious moshav in 1977	Labour	flowers for export, tomatoes, greenhouse vegetables, light industry planned	"	29 families (84 people)	'modern' Orthodox Americans, near sea, larger housing available
Genei Tal (Dew Gardens)	post-1977	3 km. north of Khan Yunis	offshoot of Netzarim, moshav	Likud	greenhouse vegetables, flowers	?	42 families (242 people)	?
Neve Dekalim	currently under construction	between Khan Yunis and sea	yeshuvim kilatim, religious recreation village	Likud	commercial centre: bank, 12 shops, supermarket, seashore tourism	?	40 families, 450 planned (183 people temporarily in other settlements)	military yeshiva (moved from Yamit) (120 students, 25 teachers, 10 families -- planned for 300 students); club; kindergarten
Gadid	post-1977	2 km. west of Khan Yunis	moshav	Likud	high scientific industry? handicrafts	?	22 families (83 people)	?
Gan Or (Garden of Light)	under construction	2 km. southwest of Khan Yunis	moshav	Likud	?	?	11 families (45 people temporarily in Netzarim)	?
Otzmonah	1983	2 km. north of Rafah, relocated from Sinai	religious moshav	Likud; Gush Emunim	nursery, flower hothouses, tomatoes, melons, chicken run, electric tool factory and computer centre planned, tourism	?	20 families; 20 singles temporarily in Morag	Torah school for boys; plans centre for studies on Zionism
Bedolah	under construction	5 km. north of Rafah	moshav	Likud	?	?	12 families (48 people) temporarily in Morag	?
Morag	May 1972	5 km. south of Khan Yunis on main highway midway to Rafah	nahal; center for Gaza and Eshkol region settlements	Labour	partially cultivated	12,000 dunums, Um Kalb village	?	military post

INTERVIEW WITH FAHD QAWASMEH

"The Iron Fist Policy Will Not Accomplish Peace"

by Daoud Kuttab

Al Fajr met with exiled mayor of Hebron, Fahd Qawasmeh, on July 16, 1983. The exclusive interview took place in Amman, only days after the sacking of Hebron's municipal council, following the murder of a settler, and before the massacre at Hebron's Islamic University. The mayor describes the political climate in the city brought on by the Israeli policy of intensified settlement. Qawasmeh was expelled from the West Bank in 1980 on the order of then-defence minister Ezer Weitzmann.

Al Fajr: **What is your reaction to the Israeli authorities' decision to dissolve the Hebron municipal council?**

Qawasmeh: This had long been expected. The killing of the Jewish student was an unfounded excuse to execute a decision made earlier to dissolve the council. The military authorities know very well that the municipal council's responsibilities, according to law, do not include security. So why did the council get punished for a matter that is not among its responsibilities?

Al Fajr: **What about the authorities' accusation that the council and the acting-mayor incited against Israelis?**

Qawasmeh: This is not true. It is not the council which incites but the unchecked actions of the settlers which create the kind of atmosphere which produces what happened in Hebron. The responsibility is on the settlers, who do not respect law and order. On the contrary, they consider themselves the authority in the area. A quick look at the acts of settlers during the past few years clearly proves it. From burning buses to destroying homes to uprooting electricity pylons to shooting and throwing grenades at schools and mosques — all this occurred without the military authorities arresting the perpetrators of these barbaric acts against Hebron's Arab population.

Al Fajr: **Another reason given for dissolving the council was the municipality's objections to settlers living in Hebron.**

Qawasmeh: It is well known that before I was expelled from my homeland in 1980 I repeatedly warned that settlement inside the city would not make the quest for peace and coexistence between the Palestinian people and the Jewish people easy. On the contrary, it forces deterioration in the relationship. Israeli settlers in Hebron are extremist Jews who declare in a clear and open manner that Hebron is their city and they seek the expulsion of the West Bank Arabs, especially Arab residents of Hebron. This has been said in letters sent to me and declared without any hesitation in the Israeli media. When the military government seized the homes that used to belong to Jews, I said that I was not opposed to Jews returning to Hebron. But there is a difference between the original owners of the houses and the settlers, whose declared platform calls for the expulsion of the Arabs.

Al Fajr: **How many Hebron houses used to belong to Jews?**

Qawasmeh: Not more than 20 homes. I would like to remind the Israelis that these houses are registered in the names of their original owners in the Hebron municipality's official records. But there is no room in Hebron for racist settlers like Levinger (of Gush Emunim) and Kahane (of Kach).

Al Fajr: **The Israeli Hebrew news broadcast mentioned that the municipal council's approach to the Israeli High Court was also another reason for the dismissal.**

Qawasmeh: The acting-mayor of Hebron (Mustafa Natshe) and the municipal council went to court against the settlers, requesting the right to protect the municipality's and the residents' property. There was another case brought against the military authorities for seizing the bus terminal and kicking the bus company out. I believe it is the right of the council to defend itself and the property of the residents. But if the Israeli defence minister is against us taking our complaint to the courts, he can complain himself through the courts.

If approaching the court is considered a crime, then Moshe Arens can also dissolve the courts. In this case, if the simple resident cannot complain to the courts or to the defence minister it would be nice if the defence minister would set up a body we can complain to without him getting angry.

Al Fajr: **What is the situation after the dissolution of the municipal council?**

Qawasmeh: Before the council was dissolved, the authorities had started making contacts with the local population in order to find a committee which could take over municipal activities. Some local people refused immediately; others called people outside the occupied territories and then replied negatively to the authorities. This happened over one year ago and the Israeli authorities still did not find any alternative among local Hebronites. That is why when the council was actually dissolved, an Israeli employee was appointed as the mayor of the city. However, I don't think that this is the end of the matter. I believe that the occupation authorities will try to force local residents to accept membership in a committee which will be entrusted to take care of city services. Here I also warn the residents of Hebron not to fall prey to the Israeli government's possible choices in the future.

"The military authorities know very well that the council's responsibilities, according to law, do not include security. So why did the council get punished for a matter that is not among its responsibilities ?"

Left, Fahd Qawasmeh, deported mayor of Hebron, with deported mayor of Halhoul Mohammed Milhem.

I expect that during the coming two months the situation in Hebron will become unbearable. The appointed Israeli mayor will pressure residents by raising taxes, oppressing citizens and not carrying out the municipal services. All this in order to create an atmosphere in which the simple Hebron resident will be asked to choose between the Israeli mayor and an Arab. Hebronites should reply that what they want is the return of the whole municipal council or free elections. There is no difference between what is bad and what is worse.

The military authorities fabricate events in Hebron in order to place the town under curfew and then they (the authorities) are free to do what they want. For example, in 1976 the town was placed under curfew when the Ibrahimi Mosque was seized. Then in '80, Hebron was curfewed when the heart of the city was opened for settlement. In '81, a curfew was placed when the Usama Ben Munqeth school was seized. And this year the bus terminal was seized and plans for seizing the market were declared official policy while the city was under curfew. I told former Israeli defence minister Ezer Weitzmann back in February 1980 that the settlement plans for the heart of Hebron will close all the doors and even windows for a just peace. He replied to me that settlement is more important than peace. I would like to ask the same question of the Israelis: which is more important — settlement or peace?

Al Fajr: **Israeli Deputy Premier David Levy answered your questions. He announced plans to settle 500 Jewish families in the centre of Arab Hebron.**

Qawasmeh: There is a difference between the original Jewish owners living in Hebron and the settlers coming to live there. We are not racist. We do not object to Jews living in Hebron. These settlers announce that they don't want to live like citizens but as Kahane said in a letter he sent me: "We want to expel the Arabs from here." We welcome every Jew who wants to live in his house, but we are opposed to the settlers.

Al Fajr: **Defence Minister Moshe Arens says that Israelis will coexist in Hebron and will not be deterred by 'terror' activities.**

Qawasmeh: Arens talks about coexistence and has no idea of what coexistence means. Coexistence means security and respect. How can you have coexistence between two sides when one declares publicly that it wants to expel the other? It is impossible for the wolf and the lamb to live together. If 'coexistence' means the expulsion of the Palestinians then it cannot be called coexistence but a relationship between slaves and master. And we refuse to live like slaves. Is what the settlers do in Hebron called coexistence and living together in peace and respect?

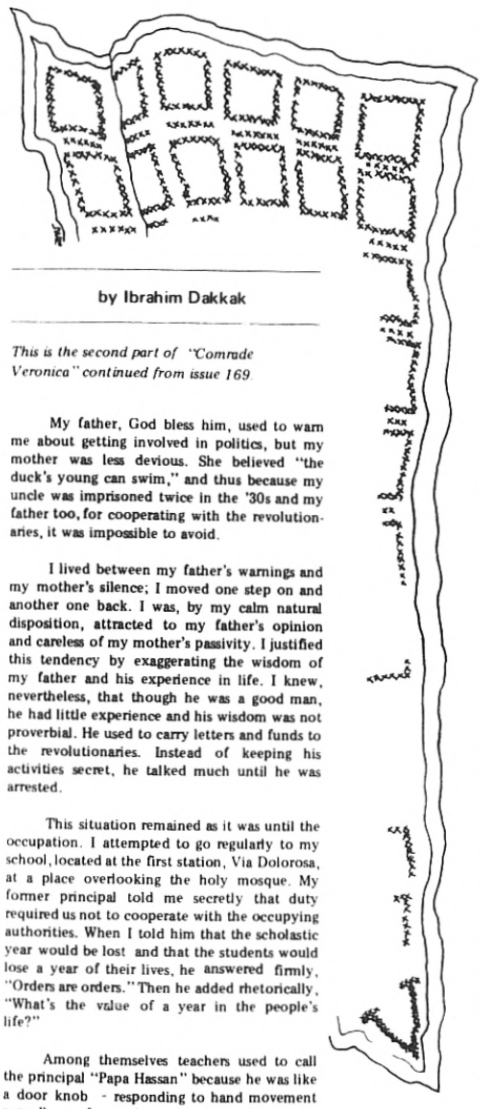
Al Fajr: **What is your appraisal of the appointment of Binyamin Ben Eliezer as the military coordinator of activities in the occupied territories, especially in light of his recent 'moderate' sounding statements?**

Qawasmeh: I have heard and read the statements attributed to Ben Eliezer when he was appointed to this new post. I also know personally that he was not happy with what was going on in the occupied territories. When I used to meet him (before my expulsion), when he was the military governor of the West Bank, I had the impression that he agreed with my point of view, but it seems that his orders were different. Since then, I believe the military government has deteriorated considerably. Instead of working on calming the atmosphere they are igniting it. What does the dismissal of the municipalities mean when everyone knows that the mayors were providing municipal services and yearning for a just peace? What does giving the municipalities to Israeli officials mean? Does this mean coexistence?

Al Fajr: **Do you have anything to say to the new coordinator of activities?**

Qawasmeh: I would advise him, in the beginning of his new term, that there is no shame in going back on a mistake — the shame is in continuing to carry out the mistake. The iron fist policy will not accomplish peace. The only action that will bring peace is the policy of dialogue and equal treatment.

COMRADE VERONICA



by Ibrahim Dakkak

This is the second part of "Comrade Veronica" continued from issue 169.

My father, God bless him, used to warn me about getting involved in politics, but my mother was less devious. She believed "the duck's young can swim," and thus because my uncle was imprisoned twice in the '30s and my father too, for cooperating with the revolutionaries, it was impossible to avoid.

I lived between my father's warnings and my mother's silence; I moved one step on and another one back. I was, by my calm natural disposition, attracted to my father's opinion and careless of my mother's passivity. I justified this tendency by exaggerating the wisdom of my father and his experience in life. I knew, nevertheless, that though he was a good man, he had little experience and his wisdom was not proverbial. He used to carry letters and funds to the revolutionaries. Instead of keeping his activities secret, he talked much until he was arrested.

This situation remained as it was until the occupation. I attempted to go regularly to my school, located at the first station, Via Dolorosa, at a place overlooking the holy mosque. My former principal told me secretly that duty required us not to cooperate with the occupying authorities. When I told him that the scholastic year would be lost and that the students would lose a year of their lives, he answered firmly, "Orders are orders." Then he added rhetorically, "What's the value of a year in the people's life?"

Among themselves teachers used to call the principal "Papa Hassan" because he was like a door knob - responding to hand movement regardless of morals and values. I used to suspect his honesty, sincerity, and straightforwardness, but I feared to "deny thrice what he said before the cock crows twice." My firm desire not to cooperate with the occupation's educational administration, my fear of the results of not obeying his orders and the orders of the reverend minister, and the consequences of my disobedience and the problems which would come at the end of the occupation, made me ignore my suspicions and concur with his opinion.

My conviction was strengthened when the reverend minister announced in the first days of the occupation that the government would pay the salaries of all employees who stopped working. Thus I entered the national circle without choice, and with the guarantee against poverty.

How I became a politician is a different matter, in which Israel shared the responsibility. My principal did not retreat from his duty to himself or as the deputy of our minister. Our reverend minister, after a period of thorough study and investigation, changed his mind and asked teachers to continue teaching for the coming generation's interest. I tried to return to my school but the principal refused me on the pretext that I had stopped teaching before. I did not care about the matter because I was sure the reverend minister would pay my salary, but his reverence, after investigating, found it was not fair to give a teacher his full salary unless he did real work. The minister deducted the work's advantages.

At this time, I was disappointed and along with others signed a petition. His reverence therefore considered me a troublemaker and retired me, despite the fact that I wasn't the right age.

When the West Bank teachers struck, demanding a raise from the occupation authorities, they considered me an incitor. They interrogated me and placed me under scrutiny. I tried to work in a private school. The principal told me frankly that he desperately needed my services, but that employment required a certificate of good behaviour issued by the security department. When I asked him which "security department" he meant, he whispered that there was no difference, because he was sure that I would not get such a certificate from his angry reverend minister and that the authorities were no less angry than he was. I swore to him that I respected the law and defended myself according to my legal rights. He looked at me sympathetically and told me secretly that this, in his opinion, was the cause of my tragedy. Therefore, I remained without work, an accused troublemaker who dabbled in politics.

The period in which Veronica lived abroad gave her experience and a scientific degree which allowed her to work in Jerusalem. Thus we were able to meet each other frequently and share our love.

Days passed, dragging behind other days, and we met. The days charged us with desire for meetings. And it was necessary to harmonize the tune between us. Despite the problems facing us, we became an orchestra of performers, skillfully playing alone while straining to integrate our mutual play. She played the reed flute of affection and cast it aside to sing. Her voice was very affectionate, beautiful, conveying the warmth of motherhood and the call of femininity. In her dance she was like a flying angel.

Once she caught my hand to dance a *dabkeh*. In the beginning I stumbled but she encouraged me to go on trying again and again until my steps were in harmony with hers. Agitated by her success, her voice sang happily without reservation as she turned, catching my hand, pushing me to the right and pulling me to the left, jumping and stamping her feet on the ground with agility and nimbleness. And again, pushing and pulling me while I followed with similar motion until we were almost one body.

When we stopped dancing, sweat washed our faces. She turned her smiling face to me, put her hand into her clothes, took an embroidered handkerchief, wiped my face and left it in my hand to wipe her face.

She liked the peasant embroidery. Sometimes she bought it from the bazaar, and whenever there was an opportunity, she embroidered a colourful handkerchief which reminded you of the olives' greenery, of the red dusk and of the blue sky. Her kerchiefs were similiar and if you asked her if she had many, she would smile, changing her eyes into a sea of rejbicing and answer: "I like the colours of life." She wove them and sewed them to give them a life in her imagination.

She was enraptured whenever I called her "my comrade Veronica" but warned me not to raise my voice in fear that she might lose her job. She was talking about the problems of Nazareth, Acre, the Galilee, al-Quds, Hebron, Ain al-Hilweh and Beddawi in numbers, backing her talk with experience. She was explaining the relations between the problems of the world using the same style.

Life in her eyes was complete optimism and the future, in her opinion, a continuing greenery. The relation between the present and the past was a constant living relation in her sentiments.

In brief, Veronica was a splendid symphony — speaking, explaining, reacting passionately, explaining things seriously without losing her calm optimism. Thus she was and thus was her sphere, even when she was standing before the mirror and combing her hair to throw it spontaneously over her shoulders after allowing her bangs to hang over her right eye. Thus was her soul: rebellious, clamorous, wanting to attain completeness even at the expense of time and the anger of her mother and father.

She didn't like the monotonous life. She, the daughter of a vibrant society whose dimensions she lived fully, found the life in Jerusalem an outlet of her personality, with the Saint Veronica as an advocate. Her good pious mother, who fasted regularly, fulfilled the solemn pledges, and spent two hours everyday in church, was not satisfied with her behaviour. Her father, who spent his life at the office of the religious court in Acre, was also dissatisfied with her conduct.

The Israeli attack was at its peak in Lebanon when Veronica asked me curiously what I expected. I did not answer because I was distressed. When we discussed the issue of our marriage, we faced, besides the problem of the sheikh and the priest, the persecution of the police against us.

The war in Lebanon pressed my nerves and angered her. We were both afraid for our personal safety. In addition to this she was anxious about her uncle, who lived with his family in Ain al-Hilweh.

She knows her cousin better than the other members of the family. She met them twice in the early 60s, at Christmas, when they came from Lebanon and she went through the Mandelebaum gate with her mother and brothers. She admired her cousin because he was alienated when a policeman stopped him for his ID card and relieved when he went away. She shared with him the same feelings — alienation, relief and loyality.

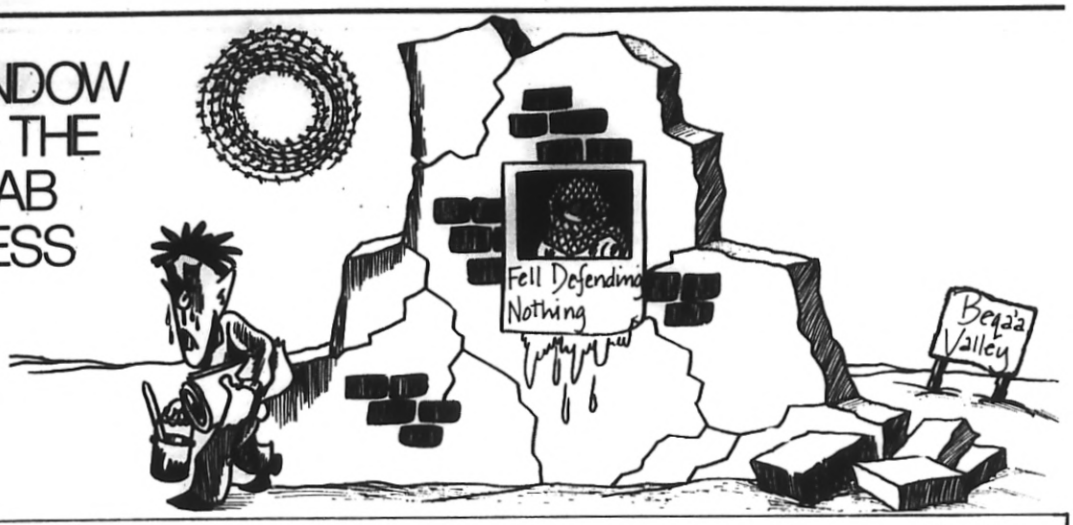
Her cousin once asked laughingly why a policeman wears a cap with a metal stake fixed near the peak. She naively laughed and asked him about the policemen in Lebanon. He laughed, describing the policeman who stands at the camp's entrance, and assured her that the stake was not yet fixed on the policeman's cap. She could not stop herself from laughing, thinking the policeman would not be completed without the stake from below coming out from his head.

He glowed while talking about Beirut and Ain al-Hilweh. She talked with affection about her village and Acre. She admitted that she loved him the next time because he was different. He was something else. He did not know Hebrew and had just graduated with a BA. She had yet to pass the matriculation exams and felt that they would not see each other again or get married. Therefore, she yielded to him on the night of his departure. He was her first love and I was her last.

Her tension increased during the events in Lebanon; she was unable to hide her anxiety for her cousin. I was jealous, but my jealousy lessened after the security men increased pursuit until at last they came and arrested me at midnight.

This story will be continued next week.

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS



The West Bank uprising following the ugly massacre at Hebron University was the main topic of the newspapers published in Jerusalem this week.

Local Palestinian newspapers continue to cover the confrontations in the Beqa'a among Palestinians. A long article in **Al Mithaq** criticised the local press, calling their coverage "vague and distorted."

Al Fajr daily, August 2, led with a red banner and front page photos of the early morning attack on its office. On July 30, **Al Shaab** reported the upcoming meeting of the PLO central committee.

Al Quds told its readers, August 1, that US envoy McFarlane is seeking to achieve a disengagement agreement between Syria and Israel.

The Lost Fight

After a brief but welcome lull, the internecine feuding between Fatah dissidents and mainstream elements of the PLO loyal to Chairman Yasir Arafat, has been renewed in the Lebanese Beqa'a.

Bullets and rockets are being fired once again, and victims are falling by the hour — in another bloody round in the vicious circle enclosing the people of Palestine.

The Palestinian fighters in the Beqa'a should have realised, long ago, what was going on in their midst, and should have put an immediate stop to their bloodletting. They should have arrived at an agreement by now. But that seems to have been an idle dream.

The fighting is apparently not going to stop, not even in the face of demonstrations by Lebanese residents of the Beqa'a protesting the massacres. And the only way the guns will fall silent is if the Palestinian fighters leave.

But where do they go?

The Palestinian nation seems to be destined as a target for external plots and conspiracies — but to have the guns of its own people pointed at its breast is more than can be endured. No other nation on earth has been faced with such a catastrophe.

Rather than shedding each other's blood, the rival factions should close ranks to confront the horrendous threats surrounding them. Dissention and internecine conflict can only serve the interests of others who will be only too happy to exploit the deplorable decimation of the Palestinian fighters.

When will this lost fight end?

AL QUDS
July 28

Excerpts

Al Shaab says in its editorial today that it would like to comment on the Hebron crime, but does not want to restrict its opinion to a single word which may give rise to question marks and raised eyebrows.

Therefore, it will relieve itself of the task of writing and consider itself satisfied with printing excerpts from the editorials published in Israeli newspapers in the past few days which touched on the Hebron incident.

. . . . . .

Haaretz

You have to be blind not to realise that the crime was planned and carried out in reprisal for the murder of Aharon Gross. It seems the perpetrators of this crime were not satisfied with merely burning down the Hebron market place, but believed they had to shed blood.

It is no wonder therefore that the settlers are getting increasingly prone to taking the law into their own hands, confident of enjoying continued immunity. And if the police were to investigate, they would meet with a blank wall of silence, and files would be inevitably closed. Is this what will happen this time again?

. . . . . .

Jerusalem Post

....The authorities do not impose curfews on the settlements when an Arab is murdered in these areas, and neither do they take over Jewish buildings, nor do they intern extremist Jews who openly call for the deportation of Arab citizens to Jordan.

AL SHAAB
July 30

A War Accord

The new US-Israeli accord is a scandal, not in the sense that both nations are acting in cahoots (vain expectations of a rupture in US-Israeli relations were the stuff the dreams of deluded Arab leaders were made of. Only they were fooled.), but in the sense that both countries are determined to exploit the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

This should be enough to cause grave concern among Arab states.

Israel and the US want to pressure Syria and dislodge it from its position of strength, so that they can impose a solution on Lebanon that will primarily serve interests of the West.

The US mission of Shamir and Arens provides ample testimony of Israel's decision to continue providing cannon fodder out of the Israel army ranks, in accordance with the interests of the Western nations.

Israel has also shown a willingness to act as policeman in the areas it controls, while allowing the Amin Gemayel government to take care of the administrative affairs.

This simply means that Israel wants to perpetuate the reactionary regime of Gemayel, as part of the overall American-Israeli plan to transform Lebanon into a spring-board from which they can mount an attack on Syria and nationalist Arab movements.

The conspirators have taken no pains to conceal their intentions. Arens has made it abundantly clear Israel will apply all sorts of pressures to get Syria to pull out of Lebanon, be they diplomatic or political.

When Arens speaks of "intensive diplomatic" pressures, he merely means "war", since war is an extension of diplomatic policy. And no one in Israel or in the Arab world is fooled by his rhetoric.

AL ITTIHAD
July 31

Democratic Dialogue

Rage and grief vie for control over the feelings of all Palestinians every time they hear of another round of internecine feuding in the Beqa'a, or an escalation of the conflict between Fatah dissidents and mainstream PLO loyalists.

If the fighting is allowed to continue uncontrolled, it will spell disaster for the Palestinian people. Cognisant of this fact, PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat has renewed his call for an end to the fighting, and to Syrian-Libyan machinations against the Palestinians. The perseverence of these two regimes in supporting the dissidents within Fatah ranks, despite all Arab and international efforts at mediation, reveals beyond a shadow of a doubt, their conspiracy against the people of Palestine, the PLO, and the Palestinian entity, in all its manifestations.

How else can we explain the daily renewal of fighting in the Beqa'a, despite the announcement by the Palestinian leadership of an emergency meeting of the Central Council?

Resumption of the fighting is aimed at undermining the success of this meeting, and proves that Syria and Libya are determined to impose their own brand of 'trusteeship' on the people of Palestine, thus robbing them of their independence and their legitimate rights.

Arafat's call reiterates the PLO's unrelenting attempts to resolve the issue within the framework of a democratic dialogue, and to strengthen its ties with all Arab nations, including Syria and Libya. But on one condition: the right Palestinians must reserve the right to decide their own fate.

AL FAJR
August 1

Mission of the Central Council

The Palestinian Central Council is scheduled to hold another meeting soon, the first get-together since the 16th general assembly of the Palestinian National Council held in Algiers last February.

All aspects of the Palestinian question are expected to be thrashed out at this momentous meeting.

The Council will voice its condemnation of all interference by other Arab elements in the internal affairs of the Palestinian people, at the same time asserting the readiness of Palestinians to forge stronger links with other Arab states, in line with the recommendations and decisions of the National Council.

Perhaps the most pressing problem facing the assembly will be the conflict in the Beqa'a. The Council has to decide on ways and means to be adopted to put an end to the internecine feud, and inculcate the feeling of mutual respect for the legitimate Palestinian entities as the framework for a democratic dialogue which must form the sole basis to be resorted to in seeking to resolve internal conflicts.

Reinforcing Palestinian national unity is the fundamental guarantee that all plots and conspiracies aimed at undermining the Palestinian cause, will be doomed to failure.

AL SHAAB
August 3

MO 1060: LAND GRABBING OUT OF COURT

The Israeli Commander of the Central Region, acting as the commander of the West Bank, issued a new military order, June 28, eliminating West Bank civilian courts' jurisdiction over unregistered land. This new military order, which serves as a law, was described as a step towards "easing the process in which Palestinian land can be transferred to Israeli settlers."

Military Order 1060 was only published last week. It simply negates Jordanian law, which authorised local courts to solve disputes over land ownership, to reregister land if it was unregistered before or to issue injunctions against any land deal. In turn, all these powers were turned over to a special committee known as the Renewed Registration Committee (RRC).

According to Jordanian law, this committee should consist of one magistrate, the director of the finance office and the director of the *Tabu* (land registration) department. The RRC's job was to hear objections to land registration procedure. The RRC worked closely with local civilian courts in all cases relating to land registry.

After occupation, the committee came under the authority of the Israeli officer in charge of land registration. The original Jordanian law was amended and the magistrate court judge who headed it was replaced by an Israeli land registration official. Currently, the Ramallah committee member is an official at the Haifa land registration department.

The committee meets only to discuss specific land registration petitions.

Palestinian lawyers warn that the Israeli step aims at killing two birds with one stone. First, it makes it easier for fraudulent land deals to pass property to Israeli hands with minimum objections. It will also slowly weaken the power of West Bank courts.

Lawyers keeping track of fraudulent land deals say that more than 15 deals were uncovered last year. Many of these deals are still being contested in courts. Al-Bireh lawyer Saber Tawil warned that the West Bank judicial system is being "emptied of its legal content." He argued that the land registration office does not give land owners legal backing for ownership.

Israeli military authorities claim the military order was instituted to prevent disputes over ownership. They particularly mention the incident in Bidya in which one Palestinian resident was killed by Israeli border guards last May while waving a court order proving his ownership of the land and an injunction ordering settlers to stop working on it. The case raised a great deal of controversy in regards to West Bank civilian courts and the effectiveness of their injunctions.

BY ORIENTAL JEWS

Zionists Charged with Anti-semitism

Yediot Aharanot said July 29 that dozens of Oriental Jews have been holding regular meetings recently in an apartment in Tel Aviv to discuss ways of changing aspects of Israeli policy.

According to the paper, the group is headed by sociologist Mehaheim Nahoum, 46, originally from Syria. The paper quoted him as warning the 'Ashkenazi establishment,' "If we are not given the power to redistribute the resources, anger will blow full force among the Oriental Jewish community. The option is between parliamentary representation and burning police cars." The paper added that in the political platform which Nahoum issued as a 400-page book he settles accounts with the Zionist movement, with the Ashkenazi parties of both left and right, with the kibbutz movement, the educational system and with history writers.

Regarding the Zionist movement, Nahoum says that until World War II, the Zionist leadership deliberately denied the Oriental Jews immigration permits. "The European Jewry," he goes on, "was interested not in the Jewry of the Islamic countries – but in financial blackmail. It granted permits only after the holocaust when there was no other option."

According to him, European Zionism was a "cover for control over economic resources" and the kibbutzim "are based on the idea of a closed market so that, God forbid, Jewish capital will not flow outside and benefit the Oriental surroundings."

Norwegian Workers Aid Um al-Fahm

Trade union 93 of Tjenestemannslagt University in Norway has contributed 1000 Norwegian kroner for the construction of a cultural centre in the Triangle village of Um al-Fahm.

The Norwegian contributors explained that the cultural centre which they are supporting is "meant to cover social, educational and cultural needs for the citizens of the largest Palestinian village in Israel, with a population of 22,000." The Norwegian university's press release explains that Palestinian villages in Israel get 20 percent of the sums given to Jewish settlements of a similar population size.

The Um al-Fahm Cultural Centre, a project of the local Abna' al-Balad movement, will contain a kindergarten, counselling rooms, a library and a gymnasium.

Although organisers have the blueprints ready, they must raise finances for a five-acre plot of land from the village's expropriated zone (costing $100,000). Next the residents will build and buy equipment for the centre.

The village residents are planning to do all the construction work themselves with financial help from local and international friends.

Dog day afternoon in Hebron./ID

Neturei Karta going to Geneva

The anti-Zionist Neturei Karta movement in Jerusalem received an official invitation, July 29, to participate in the upcoming UN-organised International Conference on the Question of Palestine to be held in Geneva, August 29 to September 7.

Rabbi Moshe Hirsch, the movement's spokesperson, told *Al Fajr* that several members of the Jerusalem-based Neturei Karta will join other Neturei Karta delegates arriving from Europe and the Americas. He said the conference will serve as a gathering to renew the long-standing friendships and ties between Jewish and Arab Palestinians "impared by the Zionist incursion in Palestine."

The anti-Zionist rabbi explained that the delegation "will explain to the conference that the state of Israel is not a Jewish state, but rather a state which is run by Jews whose governors are callous and insensitive to the values of the Jewish nation. "It is not a question pertaining only to Neturei Karta," Hirsch said, "but to all Jewry."

'No Cash to Arabs,' MK

Haaretz reported July 24, that Havad, an Israeli religious group, distributed a circular stating that they said three years ago, in the presence of MK Abraham Shair of the Agudat Yisrael party, that the government must encourage birth and prohibit abortions by granting rights to large families – even if Arab citizens of Israel also enjoy them.

According to the paper, Rabbi Abraham Yaakov Friedman, a member of the Supreme Torah Council (which runs Agudat Yisrael) said that a way must be found to prevent giving aid to large Arab families because from them "come killers of children."

This Week's Censorship

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 170, August 5, 1983:

Number of articles submitted to censors 24
Number of articles totally censored out 4
Number of articles mutilated beyond use 1
Number of articles partially censored but used 1
Number of articles passed 18

ANERA is a non-profit, charitable organisation assisting Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and in the refugee camps. In the belief that its humanitarian work will contribute to peace in the region, ANERA emphasises lasting projects in health, education and cummunity development.

Tax-deductable contributions to ANERA or requests for information may be sent to:

1522 K Street, NW, 2202, Washington, DC 20005

The PHRC (Palestine Human Rights Campaign) is contacting approximately 75 international peace, religious and human rights organisations to jointly call for an independent inquiry into Zionist settler violence in the occupied territories. Two internationally known lawyers have already agreed to participate. The PHRC is also circulating a petition (the names of supporters are to be published) for religious leaders, academics and lawyers demanding:

a) a high-level independent investigation into settler violence;

b) full disclosure of the Israeli Karp commission on settler violence and uncensored publication in Israel and the US.

We would appreciate your suggestions.

In solidarity, Rev. Don Wagner, Director, PHRC

AL FAJR SUPPLEMENT

Al Fajr Jerusalem Palestinian weekly publishes a daily supplement of English translations of selected local news items published in the four Arabic dailies: Al Fajr, Al Shaab, Al Ittihad, and Al Quds. The translations, which will be of the same day's newspapers, will also include abridged versions of the editorials appearing in the four dailies. This news service by the Al Fajr (English) staff will reflect the same high standards of accuracy and quality of English translations as Al Fajr weekly.

The supplement – under the heading "The Jerusalem Dawn" – will be hand delivered daily, by lunch time, except on Sundays, to subscribers at the address they prefer.

A service charge of US $50 per month is requested for the subscription.

Cheques may be sent to Al Fajr newspaper, P.O. Box 19315, Jerusalem. For additional information, please ask at Al Fajr (English) offices, 2 Hatem Ta'ee Street, Jerusalem. Telephone: 281-035.

WEEKLY REVIEW

July 27, 1983

WATER CUT

NABLUS — Residents of some of the most densely populated quarters of Nablus have had no water for the past three days.

DOESN'T LIKE QUESTIONS

BETHLEHEM — The district attorney has asked the Supreme Court of Israel to disregard a petition submitted by residents of the Palestinian refugee camp of Dheisheh, near Bethlehem, demanding the removal of cement walls put up by the Israeli military government to block off the camp's main entrance.

MEDICAL AID

JERUSALEM — The Union of Medical Relief Societies has concluded its third season of activities in several West Bank towns and villages. During this period, the societies treated over 2500 patients in all parts of the occupied territories.

FUMES

JERUSALEM — Nawal Hashimah was found asphyxiated from gas in her house near the government-run Hospice Hospital in the Old City. A policeman summoned by the woman's husband was also affected. The police took some samples from the kitchen of the house for lab tests. The Arab house adjoins the settlement of a group of religious Jews.

CAR ARSON

JERUSALEM — Arsonists have set fire to a car owned by a high-ranking border policeman. This is the fifth such case of arson against vehicles owned by border policemen in the past two years. In all five cases, the cars were parked on the same West Jerusalem street.

TRAVELLERS

JERICHO — Israeli border officials manning the Jordan bridges have turned back several travellers from Jordan who were under 40 years of age.

REGULATING WEST BANK TRADE

RAMALLAH — The Israeli military government has introduced new regulations governing the transfer of car ownership and the purchase of used cars in the West Bank.

Registration fees have been increased ten-fold. Purchase prices of all vehicles will now have to be in-line with offical monthly guidelines set out by the traffic department.

STUDENTS SUSPENDED FROM HU

JERUSALEM — Jerusalem's Hebrew University has backed down, after pressure from students and lecturers, from an earlier demand to expel three members of the left-wing CAMPUS student movement, and said it will be satisfied with a one-year enforced absence.

The students, Nabil Saleh, Diana Ahdot, and Ali Bashir, faced a disciplinary court following a disturbance during a lecture delivered by former chief of staff Rafael Eitan.

July 28, 1983

TRAVEL

TULKARM — The Israeli military authorities reversed a decree made earlier this week banning the movement across the Jordan bridges of Tulkarm residents under the age of 40.

FOR SPEECH AND PICTURE

NABLUS — The Nablus military court sentenced Ahmad Sami Kilani, a 19-year-old Ya'abad youth, to six months imprisonment, following conviction for being in possession of the picture of a martyr (Dalal al Moghrabi), and a copy of a speech by a PLO leader.

The speech had been printed in Jerusalem, but the Israeli authorities had retaliated by closing down the printing office, about six months ago.

The Israeli authorities also confiscated a number of books owned by the youth, including school textbooks, copies of literary magazines and a critique of Palestinian literature.

CRIME OF OMISSION

NABLUS — The Nablus military court has sentenced four Palestinian women to various prison terms ranging up to a year.

Halimeh Abu Haniyeh, and her daughter, Arabiyeh, were charged with purposeful negligence for not reporting the possession of a gun by their husband and father, who is under detention. The two women were also charged with obtaining funds from "hostile elements" in Jordan. Both drew one-year suspended sentences, part of which they have already served in jail.

Anisah Abu Haniyeh was set free on bail with a six-month suspended sentence, because she is nursing a baby. Her sister Fatima was also given a one-year suspended sentence.

TWO SHOT

JERUSALEM — Two Arab youths from Beit Safafa, near Bethlehem, were shot by unidentified gunmen.

Residents of the Arab village said the gunmen, who were chasing another vehicle driven by a villager, shot at them indiscriminately, wounding the young man and woman. The gunmen escaped.

STRIKE INSIDE

NAZARETH — The Regional Committee of the Heads of Arab Local Councils called a two-hour strike at midday to protest the attack at Hebron University.

LITTLE HEBRON

JERUSALEM — The Israeli newspaper *Ma'ariv* called on the Israeli government to ensure that a Jewish family be installed in the Shahabi quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, "to keep the quarter, which is the site of the little wailing wall, scrupulously clean."

The quarter takes its name from the Shahabi family, whose members have been living there for generations.

Gabi Baramki, acting president of Bir Zeit University, ensures students are able to leave the campus after the July 27 demonstration. /JN

July 29, 1983

MASS ARRESTS

JERUSALEM — Dozens of Palestinians from the West Bank were rounded up during the past few days, according to reports in Israeli papers. The detainees have been sent to the Fara'a detention camp.

BETHLEHEM U. SHUTS

BETHLEHEM — Bethlehem University announced it will suspend classes until next Monday in protest against the recent murders in Hebron.

GRENADE

JERUSALEM — A hand grenade thrown at a nightclub in Abu Tor, near Jerusalem, exploded without causing any casualties.

Police said two parked cars were damaged. An investigation has been launched.

HIKE

HEBRON — Because of the curfew, some *service* drivers have upped the fare from Jerusalem to IS250 for the 45 minute ride. This is four times the official rate.

FINANCIAL

NAZARETH — Nazareth Deputy Mayor Ramez Jaraysi has warned that the municipal authorities would be unable to provide citizens with any further services as of the beginning of next month, unless funds owed by the Interior Ministry were forthcoming.

Jaraysi has asked for an immediate payment of IS25,000,000 to help pay the June salaries of municipal employees. He said there was no way the municipality could pay the July salaries without a fresh injection of funds.

WEST BANK GRAVE

RAMALLAH — Police identified the burnt corpse of a woman found last week in the Ramallah area as Carmela Plass, a 32-year-old Israeli resident of Tel Aviv who had been working as a nursing instructor in Israel. Lab tests showed the woman had been strangled and then dumped near the roadside where her corpse had been set on fire to prevent identification. Police said they believe she was the victim of a romantic quarrel and that her murderer has left the country.

July 30, 1983

UNOFFICIAL SETTLEMENT

JERICHO — A group of Jewish families from various parts of West Jerusalem have set up a makeshift settlement on the Jerusalem—Jericho highway.

The settlement has been named Adam for an Israeli army general, Yekutiel Adam, who lost his life during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Reports said the 18 families are receiving aid and support from Jewish settlers in nearby settlements.

SETTLER DESTROYER HELD

JERUSALEM — The Jerusalem Magistrate Court has ordered a Jewish settler from Kiryat Arba to be remanded for five days on charges of having used his bulldozer to demolish the home of a Hebron resident. The court ordered two other suspects released on IS150,000 bail each, because police did not have sufficient evidence to convict them.

Police said the three were suspected of attempting to demolish the Arab house, which was in an advanced stage of construction, and of causing material damage estimated at IS1.2 million to the owner.

However, defence attorneys said the house had been ordered pulled down by the Kiryat Arba settlers, who charged it had been illegally built on land belonging to the settlement.

AL-ALAMI TRAVELS

JERUSALEM — Sheikh Sa'ad al-Din al-Alami, president of the Supreme Islamic Council and of the Islamic Religious Trust *(waqf)*, has left for Europe on a private month-long trip.

Sheikh al-Alami will visit Spain and West Germany, where he expects to receive medical treatment and undergo some tests.

Hassan Tahboub, General Director of the *waqf*, will deputise for him in his absence.

PASSING GRADE

GAZA — The education authorities announced they have upgraded the minimum passing marks that would entitle preparatory school students to join secondary classes.

CATTLE RAMPAGE

BEIT JALA — Beit Jala farmers and land owners are complaining about damage from grazing cattle.

They warn that if the responsible authorities do not take action, their lands will be denuded.

EXAMINATION ROW BROADENS

RAMALLAH — A large number of West Bank students enrolled at the Khadouri Agricultural College in Tulkarm announced they have withdrawn their signatures from applications forms for the controversial comprehensive examinations, sponsored by the Jordanian education authorities.

The students made their announcement following a meeting at the college attended by representatives from other West Bank colleges.

NO PARA-POLICE FOR KALANDIA

JERUSALEM — Leaders of the Palestinian refugee camp of Kalandia, on the Jerusalem-Ramallah highway, have treated with scorn a request from the Israeli military authorities that they organise an internal security committee.

The committee would have been entrusted with the task of preventing the mounting incidence of stone-throwing.

The military authorities told the refugee representatives that this was their only hope of getting the Israelis to pull down the cement walls blocking the camp's main entrance.

LAND GRAB

TULKARM — The Israeli military government has expropriated 400 dunums of land belonging to the West Bank village of Kufr Sinna, in the Tulkarm district.

The landowner said he had been shown a land sale agreement, purportedly signed by him, turning the land over to Israeli buyers. He swore he had never seen, let alone signed, such a document.

HANOUN EXPRESSES OUTRAGE

TULKARM — Tulkarm Mayor Hilmi Hanoun has sent an open letter to Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens, expressing his outrage over the recent Hebron massacre. Hanoun charged that the government's conciliatory attitude towards the settlers has encouraged them to engage in "barbaric assaults against Arab nationals."

"We are led to believe the government approves of these acts of terrorism directed at Arabs. These acts are meant to encourage Israeli settlement in occupied Arab lands," he wrote.

He said the continued reticence of the Israeli government will only serve to sow hatred among the two peoples, and give rise to further massacres in the future.

July 31, 1983

HEBRON U

HEBRON — Rashed Ja'abari, chairman of the board of trustees of Hebron University, visited students wounded during the Hebron attack. He was accompanied by several other board members.

Ja'abari stated that classes will resume tomorrow (Tuesday), and hoped things would return to normal as speedily as possible. He said most of the damage caused by the raid on the university campus has been repaired.

MEETING OF MODERATES

GAZA — A Sheli delegation met with ousted Gaza mayor Rashad Shawwa. The meeting was initiated by Sheli as part of its drive to forge links between moderate elements in Israel and figures in Gaza and the West Bank.

NORWEGIAN UNIONISTS

JERUSALEM — A Norwegian delegation visited the officers of the Union of Hotel and Restaurant workers in Jerusalem and exchanged views on union affairs. Union leaders have asked hotel owners to participate in a health scheme and a provident fund.

SALARIES

TULKARM — Public servants in Tulkarm protested the less-than-expected increase in their July salaries. Government employees said they had been granted a mere 20.2 percent hike, but this was not in line with the rise in the cost of living index and the rate of inflation.

BRITISH FRIENDS

HEBRON — The president of the British National Union of Students sent a cable to the head of the Hebron University student council, denouncing the assault on the University.

UNION ELECTIONS

NABLUS — Adel Ghanem, secretary general of the Federation of West Bank Trade Unions, said the elections for the executive committee would be held on the second Friday of September.

BEARDED MEN

NAZARETH — Israeli police have raided the homes of several residents of Nazareth, confiscating some publications, and arresting six people.

Police also took away pictures of Marx, Engels and Lenin, which they found in the homes of the six men who have been accused of daubing slogans on walls.

August 1, 1983

CURFEWED AGAIN

QALQILIYA — The Israeli military authorities lifted the curfew on the Nablus qasabah quarter, but re-imposed it on Qalqiliya.

Military sources said because of Qalqilya's strategic position along Israeli lines of communication it had been decided to extend the curfew on the town.

BUS SINGED

HEBRON — Unidentified arsonists tried to set fire to a bus belonging to a Hebron resident. Witnesses said the arsonists poured kerosene on the bus but the fire did not catch. The bus was slightly damaged.

FORCED MOVE

JERUSALEM — 6000 Beduin living in the Tel al-Milh region of the Naqab are about to be removed en masse to a new location to make way for an Israeli military airport according to an order given to local leaders.

Israeli authorities have warned that if the Beduin do not move willingly, they will be evicted by force. The eviction operation will be carried out within the next few days.

HERITAGE JEOPARDISED

JERUSALEM — The Magistrates Court in Netanya has turned down a request for a temporary injunction to close down an apartment in the Taybeh village which is now being used as the head office of the Palestine Heritage Society and Palestinian Research Center. The Heritage Society is an offshoot of the Society for the Preservation of Culture and Education.

The government's legal advisor has claimed that the offices were set up in a residential area and should therefore be closed. The court will reconvene to look into the request at the beginning of September.

FORCED TO CONFESS TO GRAFFITI

NAZARETH — Nazareth police have released six Arabs arrested in an early morning raid last Friday. The detainees had been charged with daubing slogans on walls expressing hostility towards the government and support for a hostile organisation.

They say they were subjected to threats, physical abuse and insults during their interrogation and denied all charges. They were released on IS30,000 bail. They claimed they had been treated inhumanely. One of the men, Basel Tannous, said he had been kept in solitary confinement, threatened and forced to confess to a trumped-up charge.

PERMITS DEARER

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military authorities have announced the summer's second hike in fees for entry and exit permits for individuals and vehicles carrying West Bank agricultural products to markets in Jordan.

FIRES

NABLUS — The Nablus fire brigade has been busy putting out several fires in the forest lands in the region. A brigade source said forest fires have destroyed dozens of dunums.

APARTHEID?

NAZARETH — Jewish residents of Upper Nazareth prevented an Arab family which owns a home in the Jewish suburb from moving in. Police were called in, but the family could not enter the apartment. During the past three years, several Arabs from Nazareth and the surrounding Arab villages moved into Upper Nazareth homes which they had purchased or rented at exorbitant prices.

Five hundred of the 9,000 families in Upper Nazareth are Arabs.

WHY NO ELECTIONS?

NAZARETH — The Supreme Court of Israel has asked Interior Minister Yosef Burg to show cause why he issued an order preventing the residents of the Galilee village of Iblin from participating in the forthcoming local council elections.

August 2, 1983

NYET!

JERUSALEM — The Ministry of Communications has outlawed an attempt by the Israeli company, Kinory, to produce aerials capable of receiving Soviet TV signals via satellite.

Kinory revealed that the ministry has categorically rejected its application for a licence and that it took the matter to court.

The company contended that it was perfectly legal in Israel to tune in on any TV or communications broadcast, whether from friendly or hostile countries, and that the ministry was not empowered to deny the company's bid to receive transmissions from the Soviet Union.

Worshippers demonstrating at the Dome of the Rock, July 29/JN

KAHANE'S TERRORISM

JERUSALEM — Kach (Thus) leader Meir Kahane sent a cable to the fire-bombed Arab daily, *Al Fajr*, expressing his regret that the Molotov cocktail tossed in through a window of the editorial office did not cause more extensive damage.

WATER WITHELD

JERUSALEM — Residents of the village of Sur Bahr, near Jerusalem, complain that they are suffering undue hardship as a result of the erratic supply of drinking water. They charged Israeli residents of the East Talpiot neighborhood, near the village, with tampering with the controls of the water mains which supply the village and which are located within the Israeli area.

Residents said they have complained to the authorities repeatedly, but to no avail.

SOLIDARITY WAVES

RAMALLAH — Representatives of the Israeli Committee in Solidarity with Bir Zeit University met OC Central Command General Uri Orr and presented him with a list of demands including the disarming of Jewish settlers in the West Bank and the removal of the Jewish nucleus from the heart of the city of Hebron.

They also asked Orr to evacuate Kiryat Arba residents, who they accused of being behind all the recent acts of violence against the Arabs of Hebron. They reasserted their right to put up a tent for a protest sit-in in front of the military court headquarters in Hebron.

TRAVEL ENDS

JERICHO — Israeli border officials prevented a delegation representing educationalists of the village of Ubeidieh, in the Bethlehem district, from crossing the Jordan River bridges to the East Bank. The delegation was on its way to Amman to put the finishing touches to plans to build a new girls' school in the village.

The existing facility, which caters to 600 students, is on the verge of collapse.

TAWJIHI

JERUSALEM — The results of the *tawjihi* secondary school certificate examination are out. There was a 61.5 percent success rate.

Abd al-Rahim al-Afghani, of Tulkarm, notched up the highest mark with an average of 97.3 percent, followed by Nabil Khaled Mohammed Nassar, of Jerusalem, with 96.1 percent.

UNIVERSITY REPRIMANDED

JERUSALEM — Two students have been severely reprimanded by the Hebrew University's disciplinary court for unseemly conduct during a speech delivered by former Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan about three months ago. Nabil Saleh was convicted of hoisting placards bearing slogans hostile to Eitan. Diana Ahdot was convicted of shouting slogans at police forces who had come to quell the disturbance. An Arab student, Ali Bashir, had the charges against him dismissed.

The disciplinary court said in its summation that it was not absolutely certain that the three defendants standing before it were the ones who had organised the disturbances against Eitan. The court criticised the university administration for putting three students on trial who were not the instigators.

AT WORK AGAIN

HEBRON — Classes at the Hebron Polytechnic have resumed following a one-week closure in the wake of the attack on Hebron University. However, attendance was down 60 percent.

Issa Mousa Shweiki, one of the victims of the Hebron massacre, was released from the hospital after treatment for injuries he had sustained during the incident.

Meanwhile, another student, Asma Kharoubi, is still convalescing in the Makassed Hospital in Jerusalem.

HEAT FIRES

NABLUS — Residents said fires caused extensive damage in both the Nablus and Tulkarm districts. About 150 dunums of olive groves were destroyed in the village of Bal'a by fire. Other nearby villages incurred heavy losses as the dry weather fires spread through olive and almond groves.

Israelis on Hebron

The bloody attack against the Hebron Islamic University, July 26, in which three Palestinians died, made the headlines in Israeli newspapers. Editorial pages commented in several different ways the following day. The independent *Haaretz*, *Al Hamishmar*, the organ of the left Zionist Mapam party, *Yediot Aharanot*, of the Labour Party and the Histadrut's *Davar* ran opinion articles on following days.

Condemnation of the attack was the common theme of all these papers, including *The Jerusalem Post*. But in fact it was only *Haaretz* and *Al Hamishmar* which directly and clearly placed the total responsibility on the Israeli government not only for the recent aggression against the college but for the whole series of settler actions against the West Bank population over the past few years. *Davar*, on the other hand, was the only newspaper which ran an article detailing the way the attack was carried out, based on testimonies of the students. But it did not raise the issue of whether there was cooperation or acquiescence by the army or not, as West Bankers contend.

Haaretz began its editorial with the questions: "Where did the four masked people come from who broke into the Hebron Islamic University and killed three students and wounded others?" In answering the question, the editorial mocks those who try to attribute the actions to "PLO provocateurs." Many Israeli officials raised this possibility, including West Bank 'civil administrator' Shlomo Elia in a TV interview, and *Haaretz* says this confirms that it was settlers who did it. "Only the blind will not realise that the crime was planned and carried out as an act of revenge for the killing of Aharon Gross (a settler killed in Hebron, July 7)." Elaborating on this point, it said, "It was not enough, according to their opinion, for the initiators of the murderous action to burn shops in the market. Such a 'mini-pogrom' cannot be considered by them as a sufficient punishment. Blood must be shed..."

Haaretz, like *The Jerusalem Post*, cast doubt on the alleged effort and intention of the authorities to capture the perpetrators, stating past experience suggests that if Israelis are the perpetrators they will not receive punishment. The editorial adds that in the series of "criminal actions which were carried out in the West Bank by non-Arabs," clues always led the Israeli security forces to Jewish settlers. The example of the assassination attempt against the Nablus, Ramallah and al-Bireh mayors is also brought up to back this prediction. The paper goes one step further to point up the racist attitude of the Israeli authorities: "If suspicion was focused on Arabs in actions like these, the military government would not be prevented from putting the suspects under administrative detention. But this is not accepted against Jews and the perpetrators are still free today." The editorial concludes by putting blame on the Israeli government: "What occurred today in Hebron is only the logical result of the government's policy and deficiencies."

The Jerusalem Post editorial echoed almost the same attitude and doubts. It also referred to discriminatory treatment of Palestinians and Israelis in such incidents. "Past experiences," the uncharacteristically strong editorial remarked, "suggest that despite the promise yesterday of an intensive investigation, the killers at the university will remain at large. For the record of the general security service in solving crimes committed against Arabs in the territories is not very impressive." *The Post* also noted that despite the fact that "the number of West Bank Arabs slain in recent years, presumably by Jews, is much larger than the number of Jews known to have been murdered in the territories by Arabs," curfews are not imposed on Jewish settlements when Arabs are shot down, Jewish buildings are not seized and "well-known nationalists who speak lightly of tossing the Arabs across the Jordan are not held to account."

Al Hamishmar took the most radical attitude among the Zionist papers. It was the only one that referred to an Israeli plan to expel the Palestinian population from their homeland and viewed the attack on the university as one means to this objective: "One," it said, "should not ignore that the tracks lead to extreme nationalist Jewish groups." It explained that the use of arms against the West Bank population has become routine among the settlers and that they often use weapons upon whim.

The paper also noted that not only is the Arab population under the occupation of the Israeli military forces, but also that of the Jewish settlers, "who rob the Arabs of their land and are behaving as rulers." It added that the "murderous pogrom" in the Hebron University is "a lunacy which is based on a nationalistic idea which hopes to terrorize the Arabs to force their flight from their homeland." The editorial remarked that talks about expulsion have been voiced by certain people but the authorities did not move a finger to curb them or bring them to trial.

Yediot Aharanot, in addition to a very short editorial in which it condemned the attack and called for finding the attackers, ran a detailed feature story on its front page describing the event and conveying the opinions and the testimonies of some of the students who were in the college during the break-in. In its editorial there is no mention at all of settlers; neither is there a hint about Israeli government responsibility.

The way the attack was carried out apparently was of interest to *Davar* only. It said that the preliminary investigations show that the perpetrators were professionals and that the attack was carried out very precisely. "The attackers," *Davar* said, "chose their targets accurately and carefully timed the assault. They arrived at the rear entrance of the campus, which leads to a narrow secondary road. The entrance is separated from the road by [illegible]es and a fence. This barrier prevents whoever is in the yard from seeing the sub-road – this constituted a cover for the attackers.

"Apparently," the paper adds, "the attackers had surveyed the place of the attack several times before choosing their firing positions and the time and the day in which the students would be in the college yard."

"The Killing in Hebron; Government's responsibility." Harretz July 27, 1983

Moshe Arens:

Janus Guarding Israel's "Security"

If the law were implemented on an equal basis, when Arabs are killed, curfews would be imposed on the Jewish settlements from which the killers came.

by Boaz Evron *Yediot Aharanot*
July 27, 1983

This article is directed to Defence Minister Moshe Arens. It deals with three statements he made on different occasions, all of which contradict one another.

If these statements had been made by his predecessor (Ariel Sharon) or by an ordinary politician, I would not have dealt with them because I do not expect righteousness or straightforwardness from them. But Professor Moshe Arens, regardless of the big differences between his camp and mine, gives the impression of being a straightforward intellectual who does not say what he does not think, and "his face doesn't turn red when he tells the truth." It is the respect and trust he prompts, even among his political opponents, which encourages me to write this letter, especially after the atrocity in Hebron.

Two weeks ago, in a celebration of the transformation of a settlement from military to civil control, Arens expressed wonder about those who oppose settlements: "Is it possible that the Arabs cannot stand seeing the Jews who come to settle among them? Cannot both peoples live side by side?"

This week an interview with Professor Arens was published in the *Los Angeles Times*, in which he said that Israel must work toward the annexation of the West Bank and grant Israeli citizenship to its Arab population so that they become equal citizens in the state.

And in a publication issued by the Van Leer Institute under the title "Is There a Solution to the Palestinian Problem?" Professor Arens, before he was appointed to his current post, wrote: "In the long run Israeli Jews will not be ready to live with a minority inside their state, whether this is related to the 16 percent within the 'green line' or within the current borders. We are devoting much time to the Palestinian problem in Jordan, in Lebanon and the West Bank, and we devote almost no time to the Palestinian problem inside the current borders of the state of Israel. I tend to believe that if we step forward in handling the problem, we will also find that the Palestinian problem behind the 'green line' will look easier to solve in the future than it does today". (pp. 204-205).

Another point is that when we compare this quoted passage to what Arens had to say later at the settlement celebration, a question poses itself – why do only Jews have the right to oppose the presence of an alien minority in the country? Why do they expect that the Arabs in the occupied territories have to welcome the Jewish minority which is imposed on them by Mr Arens and his associates through violence and the confiscation of property?

But besides this, to the extent of being able to understand his deliberately confused statements in the cases mentioned above, Arens hints to the intention to "get rid of" the Arabs who are citizens of Israel, and after that the Arabs of the occupied territories.

How can this statement be understood differently: "I tend to believe that if we step forward in handling this problem we will also discover that the solution to the Palestinian problem behind the 'green line' will look much easier than it does today."

According to these quoted statements, Arens' approach is much more extreme and dangerous than Begin's. The prime minister has talked more than once about Israel's commitment to the safety of non-Jewish citizens, but he has never expressed opinions like those mentioned above. Openly, the spokesmen of the Gush Emunim refrain from expressing such opinions. Namely, behind the calm and cultured image of Professor Arens, his disciplined words and clean tongue, there lie, apparently, the same opinions which Sharon and Raful (ex-chief of staff Rafael Eitan) have expressed in a much more vicious way. And their danger lies in the fact that they are expressed in an apparently disciplined, subtle and cultured way.

On the other side, Arens made strict statements after the pogrom in Hebron. He declared that there would be no playing around in implementing law, and that only the security forces are allowed to implement it.

It seems that there is only one way by which we can know the real stands of the defence minister; if it is true that he supports equal implementation of the law in the country, without discrimination, we must expect that the security machinery should be operated with its full force, in order to discover and bring to justice the murderers who committed the massacre in Hebron. I also suspect that when they are captured the police will discover the killers of Emil Greenzweig, and the perpetrators of the assassination attempts against the Arab mayors will also be discovered.

And if the law is implemented on an equal basis, no curfews will be imposed on Arab towns and villages when Arabs are killed but rather in the Jewish settlements from which, as it must be suspected, the killers came. Why, when they kill Arabs, do Arabs and not Jews get arrested? If they really want to have order and justice under Israeli rule and not violence under the guise of "imposing order," the arrests must apply to the community which violates the law and not to the victim. It is very important to see if Professor Arens is able to define himself, in words and actions, in this situation in which he finds himself.